

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS  
EASTERN DIVISION**

DOROTHY FORTH, TROY TERMINE,  
CYNTHIA RUSSO, AND  
INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD  
OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS LOCAL  
38 HEALTH AND WELFARE FUND, on  
behalf of themselves and all others  
similarly situated,

Plaintiffs,

v.

WALGREEN CO. AND WALGREENS  
BOOTS ALLIANCE, INC.,

Defendants.

Civil No.: 17-cv-2246

**CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT  
AND  
JURY DEMAND**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

1. Plaintiffs Dorothy Forth, Troy Termine, and Cynthia Russo (“Consumer Plaintiffs”) are consumers<sup>1</sup> and Plaintiff International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 38 Health and Welfare Fund (“Plaintiff IBEW Local 38”) is a third-party payor<sup>2</sup> (collectively, “Plaintiffs”) that bring this action on behalf of themselves and all others similarly situated (the “Class”) against Defendants Walgreen Co. and Walgreens Boots Alliance Inc. (“Defendants” or “Walgreens”) to recover for the harm caused by Walgreens’ fraudulent and deceptive price scheme to artificially inflate the “usual and customary” prices reported and used to charge Plaintiffs and members of the Class for purchases of certain generic prescription drugs at Walgreens pharmacies.

2. About 90% of all United States citizens are now enrolled in private or public health insurance plans that cover at least a portion of the costs of medical and prescription drug benefits.<sup>3</sup> A feature of most of these health insurance plans is the shared cost of prescription drugs. Typically, when a consumer fills a prescription for a medically necessary prescription drug under his or her health insurance plan, the third-party payor pays a portion of the cost and the consumer pays the remaining portion of the cost directly to the pharmacy in the form of a copayment or coinsurance or deductible payment.

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<sup>1</sup> The term “consumer” refers to a person who is a participant or beneficiary under a public or private health insurance plan that provides prescription drug benefits pursuant to such plan.

<sup>2</sup> The term “third-party payor” or “TPP” refers to any private health insurance companies, third-party administrators, health maintenance organizations, health and welfare plans that make payments from their own funds, and other health benefit providers and entities with self-funded plans that contract with a health insurer or administrator to administer their prescription drug benefits.

<sup>3</sup> Stephanie Marken, *U.S. Uninsured Rate at 11%, Lowest in Eight-Year Trend*, <http://www.gallup.com/poll/190484/uninsured-rate-lowest-eight-year-trend.aspx> (last visited Mar. 19, 2017).

3. In an effort to control their prescription drug costs, many third-party payors require consumers to purchase generic prescription drugs when available because generic drugs often cost less than the brand-name version. According to a report by the Generic Pharmaceutical Association, 89% of all prescriptions dispensed in the United States now are generic drugs.<sup>4</sup> Consumers also save money when they purchase generic prescription drugs over more-expensive brand-name versions because they pay lower copayment, coinsurance, or deductible amounts for these generics.

4. Instead of reaping the benefit of these intended savings, however, Plaintiffs and members of the Class are paying much more for certain generics than Walgreens' cash-paying customers<sup>5</sup> who fill their generic prescriptions through Walgreens' discount generic drug program, called the "Prescription Savings Club" ("PSC"), without using health insurance.

5. A pharmacy cannot charge to a consumer or report to a third-party payor a higher price for prescription drugs than the pharmacy's "usual and customary" ("U&C") price. The U&C price is referred to by Walgreens and known throughout the pharmacy industry as the price that the pharmacy charges the cash-paying public. Indeed, Walgreens' practices violate federal and state regulations, including the Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit Manual, which defines the "usual and customary price" as "[t]he price that an out-of-network pharmacy or a physician's office charges a customer who does not have any form of prescription drug coverage for a covered Part D drug." 42 C.F.R. §423.100.

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<sup>4</sup> Generic Pharmaceutical Association, 2016 Generic Drug Savings & Access in the United States Report, <http://www.gphaonline.org/media/generic-drug-savings-2016/index.html> (last visited Mar. 19, 2017).

<sup>5</sup> "Cash-paying customers," also known as "self-paying customers," refers to customers who pay for the drugs themselves – whether by cash, credit card, or check – without using insurance.

6. As alleged below, Walgreens, instead of complying with this requirement, maintains a dual pricing scheme for the generic prescription drugs available through the PSC. Indeed, Walgreens has used its PSC as a mechanism to knowingly and intentionally overcharge consumers and third-party payors, like Plaintiffs and the Class, in excess of Walgreens' actual U&C prices for these generics.

7. Walgreens is the largest retail pharmacy in the United States with 8,175 retail pharmacies in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. In fiscal year 2016, Walgreens filled 928.5 million prescriptions (adjusted to 30-day equivalents) and earned approximately \$56.1 billion in pharmacy sales in the United States.<sup>6</sup>

8. Since 2007, Walgreens, through its PSC, has allowed cash-paying customers to purchase more than 500 widely prescribed generic drugs for \$5, \$10, and \$15 for 30-day prescriptions and \$10, \$20, and \$30 for 90-day prescriptions (the "PSC Prices"), depending on the drug's tier classification.

9. Walgreens' PSC formulary (the "PSC Value Priced Medication List" attached as Exhibit A) includes some of the most commonly used generics for cardiovascular, diabetes, pain, psychiatric illnesses, gastrointestinal disorders, and other common ailments (the "PSC Generics").<sup>7</sup> PSC prices apply only to prescription generics that Walgreens includes in the formulary.

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<sup>6</sup> See Walgreens Boots Alliance Annual Report 2016, 4, [http://investor.walgreensbootsalliance.com/common/download/download.cfm?companyid=WAG&fileid=920659&filekey=858BCE46-131D-4764-8410-1F35998DD1F8&filename=e=278444\\_Final\\_BMK.pdf](http://investor.walgreensbootsalliance.com/common/download/download.cfm?companyid=WAG&fileid=920659&filekey=858BCE46-131D-4764-8410-1F35998DD1F8&filename=e=278444_Final_BMK.pdf) (last visited Mar. 19, 2017).

<sup>7</sup> Walgreens states that the list of drugs on the attached Exhibit A "is not all-inclusive." Thus, the term "PSC Generic(s)" refers to any generic prescription drug that Walgreens included in the PSC formulary since 2007 and for which it charges the PSC Prices, regardless of whether or not the drug is listed on the attached Exhibit A.

10. Walgreens' PSC program is not a special, limited, or a one-time offer. Any pharmacy patron, except a Medicare or Medicaid beneficiary, is eligible to participate in the program. Walgreens does not limit the eligibility for, or duration of the availability of, PSC Prices other than to require cash payment.

11. Upon information and belief, the majority of Walgreens' cash-paying customers pay no more than the PSC Prices.

12. Thus, Walgreens' PSC Prices represent Walgreens' actual U&C prices for the PSC Generics. For the PSC Generics, Walgreens should have reported and charged to Plaintiffs and the Class the PSC Prices as Walgreens' U&C price, because the PSC Price was, and still is, the price Walgreens charges customers paying cash without insurance. But for years, Walgreens has knowingly and intentionally reported artificially inflated U&C prices for PSC Generics on claims for reimbursement submitted to third-party payors. Because the reported U&C price is used to calculate the amount a consumer must pay, Walgreens also overcharged consumers and beneficiaries of third-party payors for PSC Generics by improperly collecting inflated copayments, coinsurance, or deductible amounts.

13. Walgreens' misconduct has caused Plaintiffs and the other members of the Class to suffer significant damages from 2007 to the present. This action is brought as a class action on behalf of all consumers and TPPs nationwide, or in the alternative, in the states of Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Illinois, Louisiana, Minnesota, Missouri, Nevada, North Carolina, Ohio, Texas, and Wisconsin, who purchased or paid for PSC Generics, other than for resale (*see* Class definitions below). Accordingly, Plaintiffs seek to recover monetary damages, injunctive relief, and equitable or other remedies for fraud, negligent



misrepresentation, unjust enrichment, and violation of state consumer protection statutes enumerated below, and for declaratory and injunctive relief under the Declaratory Judgment Act.

## **PARTIES**

### **A. Plaintiffs**

14. Plaintiff Dorothy Forth (“Plaintiff Forth” or “Ms. Forth”) is, and at all times relevant was, domiciled in the State of Texas. Ms. Forth has purchased generic versions of more than twenty medications for personal use from Walgreens in Texas between January 1, 2012 and the present. Ms. Forth carries federal health insurance through Medicare and carried Medicare Part D coverage during the time she purchased prescription generic drugs from Walgreens. Medications prescribed to Ms. Forth appear on the list of PSC Generics attached as Exhibit A. Walgreens overcharged Ms. Forth on her purchases of PSC Generics. Walgreens is required to charge Ms. Forth an amount that does not exceed the U&C price Walgreens charges its cash-paying customers for these generic prescription drugs. For these sales, Walgreens knowingly based Ms. Forth’s payment on a purported U&C price that was fraudulently inflated above Walgreens’ true U&C price – that is, the price Walgreens offers under its PSC program. Through its fraudulent pricing scheme, Walgreens has overcharged Ms. Forth, and as a result, Ms. Forth has overpaid for her PSC Generics by at least \$285.22, as indicated in the chart.

Prescription	Date Purchased	Days' Supply	PSC Tier	Client Paid	PSC (U&C) Price
<b>Rx 1</b>	1/31/13	30	3	\$40.00	\$15.00
<b>Rx 2</b>	2/23/13	30	3	\$40.00	\$15.00
<b>Rx 3</b>	7/8/14	30	3	\$30.30	\$15.00
<b>Rx 4</b>	7/22/14	30	3	\$59.89	\$15.00
<b>Rx 5</b>	9/2/14	30	3	\$59.89	\$15.00
<b>Rx 6</b>	4/17/15	30	3	\$45.08	\$15.00
<b>Rx 7</b>	7/2/14	90	3	\$30.25	\$30.00
<b>Rx 8</b>	2/11/14	90	2	\$21.00	\$20.00
<b>Rx 9</b>	8/14/14	30	2	\$11.99	\$10.00
<b>Rx 10</b>	6/6/15	30	1	\$8.40	\$5.00
<b>Rx 11</b>	6/6/15	30	1	\$40.38	\$5.00
<b>Rx 12</b>	7/10/15	30	1	\$45.77	\$5.00
<b>Rx 13</b>	7/28/15	90	3	\$33.21	\$30.00
<b>Rx 14</b>	5/26/13	90	2	\$29.06	\$20.00
<b>Rx 15</b>	1/22/13	90	1	\$15.00	\$10.00
				<b>Total Paid</b>	<b>Total PSC Price</b>
				<b>\$510.22</b>	<b>\$225.00</b>
<b>OVERPAYMENT: \$285.22</b>					

15. Ms. Forth reasonably believed that because she pays premiums for health insurance with prescription benefits coverage that she would pay at least the same as and not more than a cash-paying customer for her prescriptions filled at Walgreens. Ms. Forth would not have paid the inflated prices absent Walgreens' deception.

16. To maintain continuity of her medical care, Ms. Forth anticipates filling future prescriptions for PSC Generics at a Walgreens pharmacy, and thus faces the prospect of paying additional inflated amounts in the future if Walgreens continues its wrongful conduct.

17. Plaintiff Troy Termine ("Plaintiff Termine" or "Mr. Termine") is, and at all times relevant was, domiciled in the State of Louisiana. Mr. Termine has purchased generic versions of numerous medications for personal use from Walgreens in Louisiana between January 1, 2015 and the present. Mr. Termine carried health insurance through Humana during the time he purchased prescription generic drugs from Walgreens. Medications prescribed to Mr. Termine

appear on the list of PSC Generics attached as Exhibit A. Walgreens overcharged Mr. Termine for several PSC Generics. Walgreens is required to charge Mr. Termine an amount that does not exceed the U&C price Walgreens charges its cash-paying customers for these generic prescription drugs. For these sales, Walgreens knowingly based Mr. Termine's payment on a purported U&C price that was fraudulently inflated above Walgreens' true U&C price – that is, the price Walgreens offers under its PSC program. Through its fraudulent pricing scheme, Walgreens has overcharged Mr. Termine, and as a result, Mr. Termine has overpaid for his PSC Generics by at least \$8.04, as indicated in the chart.

<b>Prescription</b>	<b>Date Purchased</b>	<b>Days' Supply</b>	<b>PSC Tier</b>	<b>Client Paid</b>	<b>PSC (U&amp;C) Price</b>
<b>Rx 1</b>	11/5/15	30	1	\$7.15	\$5.00
<b>Rx 2</b>	5/17/16	30	1	\$10.89	\$5.00
				<b>Total Paid</b>	<b>Total PSC Price</b>
				<b>\$18.04</b>	<b>\$10.00</b>
<b>OVERPAYMENT: \$8.04</b>					

18. Mr. Termine reasonably believed that because he pays premiums for health insurance with prescription benefits coverage that he would pay at least the same as and not more than a cash-paying customer for his prescriptions filled at Walgreens. Mr. Termine would not have paid the inflated prices absent Walgreens' deception.

19. To maintain continuity of his medical care, Mr. Termine anticipates filling future prescriptions for PSC Generics at a Walgreens pharmacy, and thus faces the prospect of paying additional inflated amounts in the future if Walgreens continues its wrongful conduct.

20. Plaintiff Cynthia Russo ("Plaintiff Russo" or "Ms. Russo") is, and at all times relevant was, domiciled in the State of Florida. Ms. Russo has purchased generic versions of more than ten medications for personal use from Walgreens in Florida between January 1, 2012 and the present. Ms. Russo carries federal health insurance through Medicare and carried

Medicare Part D coverage during the time she purchased prescription generic drugs from Walgreens. Medications prescribed to Ms. Russo appear on the list of PSC Generics attached as Exhibit A. Walgreens overcharged Ms. Russo for several PSC Generics. Walgreens is required to charge Ms. Russo an amount that does not exceed the U&C price Walgreens charges its cash-paying customers for these generic prescription drugs. For these sales, Walgreens knowingly based Ms. Russo's payment on a purported U&C price that was fraudulently inflated above Walgreens' true U&C price – that is, the price Walgreens offers under its PSC program. Through its fraudulent pricing scheme, Walgreens has overcharged Ms. Russo, and as a result, Ms. Russo has overpaid for her PSC Generics by at least \$130.88, as indicated in the chart.

<b>Prescription</b>	<b>Date Purchased</b>	<b>Days' Supply</b>	<b>PSC Tier</b>	<b>Client Paid</b>	<b>PSC (U&amp;C) Price</b>
<b>Rx 1</b>	10/9/14	90	3	\$92.96	\$30.00
<b>Rx 2</b>	6/1/14	30	3	\$31.98	\$15.00
<b>Rx 3</b>	8/9/14	30	3	\$31.98	\$15.00
<b>Rx 4</b>	9/15/14	30	3	\$31.98	\$15.00
<b>Rx 5</b>	10/24/14	30	3	\$31.98	\$15.00
				<b>Total Paid</b>	<b>Total PSC Price</b>
				<b>\$220.88</b>	<b>\$90.00</b>
<b>OVERPAYMENT: \$130.88</b>					

21. Ms. Russo reasonably believed that because she pays premiums for health insurance with prescription benefits coverage that she would pay at least the same as and not more than a cash-paying customer for her prescriptions filled at Walgreens. Ms. Russo would not have paid the inflated prices absent Walgreens' deception.

22. To maintain continuity of her medical care, Ms. Russo anticipates filling future prescriptions for PSC Generics at a Walgreens pharmacy, and thus faces the prospect of paying additional inflated amounts in the future if Walgreens continues its wrongful conduct.

23. Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 is located in Cleveland, Ohio. Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 is an "employee welfare benefit plan" and "employee benefit plan" maintained pursuant to

Section 302(c)(5) of the Labor Management Relations Act (“LMRA”), 29 U.S.C. §186(c)(5), and as defined by §§1002(1) and (3) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (“ERISA”), 29 U.S.C. §1001, *et seq.* As such, Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 is an entity entitled to bring suit in its own name pursuant to 29 U.S.C. §1132(d).

24. Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 is a non-profit trust, sponsored and administered by a Board of Trustees, established through collective bargaining by labor unions and employers. Pursuant to the trust agreement under which it was created, it provides comprehensive healthcare benefits to participants who are employed under various collective bargaining agreements, along with their dependents and retirees (collectively, “beneficiaries”). Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 administers the health and welfare fund in Ohio and its beneficiaries who purchased PSC Generics are located in Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Illinois, Louisiana, Minnesota, Missouri, Nevada, North Carolina, Ohio, Texas, and Wisconsin. Beneficiaries of Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 purchased tens of thousands medically-necessary PSC Generics during the Class Period for personal use. Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 is ultimately at risk and responsible for reimbursing or paying for beneficiaries’ purchases of prescription drugs. Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 paid more for PSC Generics than it would have absent Walgreens’ misconduct.

25. Through its fraudulent pricing scheme, Walgreens has overcharged Plaintiff IBEW Local 38, and as a result, Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 has overpaid for PSC Generics. Examples of such overpayments by Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 are indicated in the chart.

<b>Prescription</b>	<b>Date Purchased</b>	<b>Days' Supply</b>	<b>PSC Tier</b>	<b>TPP Paid</b>	<b>PSC (U&amp;C) Price</b>
<b>Rx 1</b>	12/4/08	30	2	\$36.92	\$10.00
<b>Rx 2</b>	1/22/09	30	2	\$33.96	\$10.00
<b>Rx 3</b>	1/26/09	30	2	\$33.96	\$15.00
<b>Rx 4</b>	9/1/10	30	3	\$29.37	\$15.00
<b>Rx 5</b>	9/17/12	30	1	\$29.41	\$5.00
<b>Rx 6</b>	1/09/13	30	1	\$24.28	\$5.00
<b>Rx 7</b>	1/30/14	30	1	\$14.28	\$5.00
<b>Rx 8</b>	5/3/14	30	1	\$11.76	\$5.00
<b>Rx 9</b>	11/4/09	30	2	\$26.12	\$10.00
<b>Rx 10</b>	6/26/10	30	1	\$13.47	\$5.00

26. Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and similarly situated Class members paid for prescriptions of their beneficiaries. These payments arose from Walgreens' sales of PSC Generics to beneficiaries for the medically-necessary treatment of illnesses, which qualify as transactions that resulted in the sale of goods to consumers for personal use.

27. Consumers' purchases of PSC Generics, including those of Consumer Plaintiffs, are medically necessary, and thus, are non-discretionary purchases. As such, the Consumer Plaintiffs cannot, and are not required to, avoid future purchases of medically-necessary PSC Generics from Walgreens – their established pharmacy with which they have a standing relationship and prescription history.

28. Third-party payors, including Plaintiff IBEW Local 38, will continue to pay for beneficiaries' purchases of PSC Generics because those drugs are medically necessary, and thus, are non-discretionary purchases. As such, beneficiaries cannot, and are not required to, avoid future purchases of medically-necessary PSC Generics from Walgreens – their established pharmacy with which they have a standing relationship and prescription history.

29. Plaintiffs have been injured in their business or property by having paid or reimbursed more for PSC Generics than they would have absent Walgreens' misconduct alleged

herein. Each Plaintiff was injured by the illegal, unjust, and deceptive conduct described herein, both individually and in a manner that was common and typical of Class members

**B. Defendants**

30. Defendant Walgreen Co. (“Walgreen Co.”) is an Illinois corporation with its headquarters at 200 Wilmot Road, Deerfield, Illinois. Until December 31, 2014, Walgreen Co. had no corporate parent. On December 31, 2014, Walgreen Co. became a wholly-owned subsidiary of Defendant Walgreens Boots Alliance, Inc. pursuant to a merger to effect a reorganization of Walgreen Co. into a holding company structure (“Reorganization”).<sup>8</sup>

31. Defendant Walgreens Boots Alliance, Inc. (“WBA”) is a Delaware corporation with its headquarters at 108 Wilmot Road, Deerfield, Illinois. On December 31, 2014, WBA became the successor of Walgreen Co., pursuant to the Reorganization, with WBA becoming the direct parent holding company and Walgreen Co. becoming a wholly-owned subsidiary of WBA.

32. WBA exercises complete control over Walgreens Co. and its operations. Walgreen Co. shareholders immediately prior to the Reorganization became shareholders of WBA, with shares of Walgreen Co. common stock converted automatically into shares of WBA common stock on a one-for-one basis. WBA’s publicly reported consolidated financial statements (and other data) reflect the results of the operations and the financial position of Walgreen Co. and its subsidiaries for periods prior to December 31, 2014 and of WBA and its subsidiaries for periods from and after the effective time of the Reorganization on December 31, 2014. All WBA profits are derived from its wholly-owned operating subsidiaries. Walgreen Co.

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<sup>8</sup> See Walgreens Boots Alliance Annual Report 2016, 4, [http://investor.walgreensbootsalliance.com/common/download/download.cfm?companyid=WAG&fileid=920659&filekey=858BCE46-131D-4764-8410-1F35998DD1F8&filename=e=278444\\_Final\\_BMK.pdf](http://investor.walgreensbootsalliance.com/common/download/download.cfm?companyid=WAG&fileid=920659&filekey=858BCE46-131D-4764-8410-1F35998DD1F8&filename=e=278444_Final_BMK.pdf) (last visited Mar. 20, 2017).

reports its financial results into WBA's Retail Pharmacy USA division.<sup>9</sup> The WBA Co-Chief Operating Officer ("Co-COO") is also President of Walgreen Co. In this role, WBA Co-COO Gourlay is responsible for the day-to-day operation and oversight of Walgreen Co.

33. Because of their integrated operations, Walgreen Co. and Walgreens Boots Alliance are referred to herein as "Walgreens."

34. Walgreens refers to itself as "the first global pharmacy-led, health and wellbeing enterprise" with a purpose of "help[ing] people across the world lead healthier and happier lives."<sup>10</sup> Walgreens operates over 8,175 retail pharmacies in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.<sup>11</sup> There are 598 Walgreens retail pharmacies in the State of Illinois alone.<sup>12</sup> As of August 2016, approximately 76% of the United States population lives within five miles of a Walgreens retail pharmacy.<sup>13</sup>

35. Walgreens relies heavily on its U.S. pharmacy division. In Walgreens' 2016 fiscal year, the U.S. pharmacy division made up 67% of Walgreens' total sales, up from 64% in fiscal year 2014. Walgreens filled 928.5 million prescriptions (adjusted to 30-day equivalents) in fiscal year 2016. Walgreens' latest annual report filed with the Securities Exchange Commission

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<sup>9</sup> See Walgreens Boots Alliance Annual Report 2016, 4, [http://investor.walgreensbootsalliance.com/common/download/download.cfm?companyid=WAG&fileid=920659&filekey=858BCE46-131D-4764-8410-1F35998DD1F8&filename=e=278444\\_Final\\_BMK.pdf](http://investor.walgreensbootsalliance.com/common/download/download.cfm?companyid=WAG&fileid=920659&filekey=858BCE46-131D-4764-8410-1F35998DD1F8&filename=e=278444_Final_BMK.pdf) (last visited Mar. 20, 2017).

<sup>10</sup> Walgreens Boots Alliance, <http://www.walgreensbootsalliance.com/about/> (last visited Mar. 20, 2017).

<sup>11</sup> Walgreens Store Count by State, <http://news.walgreens.com/fact-sheets/store-count-by-state.htm> (last visited Mar. 20, 2017).

<sup>12</sup> *Id.*

<sup>13</sup> Walgreens FAQ, <http://news.walgreens.com/fact-sheets/frequently-asked-questions.htm> (last visited Mar. 20, 2017).



on October 20, 2016 lists Walgreens' total sales for fiscal year 2016 for its Retail Pharmacy USA division at over \$83 billion.<sup>14</sup>

36. Walgreens directs its retail pharmacy operations from its Illinois headquarters where all its key executives are located. Thus, the deceptive and fraudulent price scheme to overcharge Plaintiffs and members of the Class was developed in and directed from Illinois.

### **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

37. This Court has subject-matter jurisdiction pursuant to the Class Action Fairness Act of 2005, 28 U.S.C. §1332(d)(2) because this is a class action, including claims asserted on behalf of a nationwide class, filed under Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure; there are hundreds of thousands, and likely millions, of proposed Class members; the aggregate amount in controversy exceeds the jurisdictional amount or \$5,000,000.00; and Walgreens is a citizen of a state different from that of Plaintiffs and members of the Class. Moreover, Walgreens' wrongful conduct, as described herein, foreseeably affects consumers in Illinois and nationwide. This Court also has subject matter jurisdiction over Plaintiffs and the proposed Class' claims pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367(a).

38. Venue is proper in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois (Eastern Division) pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§1391(b)-(d) and 1441(a), because, *inter alia*, each Defendant is deemed to reside in any judicial district in which it is subject to personal jurisdiction at the time the action is commenced, and because Defendants' contacts within this District are significant and sufficient to subject it to personal jurisdiction. Furthermore,

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<sup>14</sup> See Walgreens Boots Alliance Annual Report 2016, 4, [http://investor.walgreensbootsalliance.com/common/download/download.cfm?companyid=WAG&fileid=920659&filekey=858BCE46-131D-4764-8410-1F35998DD1F8&filename=e=278444\\_Final\\_BMK.pdf](http://investor.walgreensbootsalliance.com/common/download/download.cfm?companyid=WAG&fileid=920659&filekey=858BCE46-131D-4764-8410-1F35998DD1F8&filename=e=278444_Final_BMK.pdf) (last visited Mar. 20, 2017).

Defendants' scheme to implement the PSC and fraudulently inflate U&C pricing information was directed from Defendants' Deerfield, Illinois headquarters.

### **FACTUAL BACKGROUND**

#### **A. Health Insurance and Prescription Drug Benefits in the United States**

39. The vast majority of Americans have a health insurance plan (either private or public) that covers at least a portion of their medical and prescription drug expenses.

40. Health insurance is paid for by a premium that covers medical and prescription drug benefits for a defined period. Health insurance can be purchased directly by an individual or obtained through employer plans that either provide benefits by purchasing group insurance policies or are self-funded but administered by health insurance companies and their affiliates. Consumers pay premiums to receive their health insurance benefits.

41. If a health insurance plan covers outpatient prescription drugs, the cost for prescription drugs is often shared between the consumer and the third-party payor. Such cost sharing can take the form of deductible payments, coinsurance payments, or copayments. In general, deductibles are the dollar amounts the consumer pays during the benefit period (usually a year) before the health insurance plan starts to make payments for drug costs. Coinsurance generally requires a consumer to pay a stated percentage of drug costs. Copayments are generally fixed dollar payments made by a consumer toward drug costs.

42. Consumers purchase health insurance and enroll in employer-sponsored health insurance plans to protect them from unexpected high medical costs, including prescription drug costs. Given the premiums paid in exchange for health insurance benefits (including prescription drug benefits), consumers expect to pay the same price as or less than the price paid by uninsured or cash-paying individuals for a prescription. Otherwise, consumers not only would receive no

benefit from their prescription drug benefits, but, in fact, would be punished for having health insurance. Therefore, Plaintiffs and members of the Class reasonably expect to pay the same or less for PSC Generics than cash-paying Walgreens customers enrolled in the PSC program.

43. Generic versions of brand name drugs typically are priced significantly below the brand name versions. Thus, as part of the cost-sharing structure relating to prescription drug benefits, third-party payors frequently encourage or require plan participants to have their prescriptions filled with generics in an effort to save on skyrocketing prescription drug costs. Generics typically provide consumers with a lower-cost alternative to brand name pharmaceuticals while providing the same treatment. Here, Plaintiffs and the members of the Class expected to save money and pay less than cash-paying customers by purchasing PSC Generics, not to have Walgreens overcharge them for these drugs.

#### **B. Standardized Prescription Claims Adjudication Process**

44. The prescription claims adjudication process, which is the process of accepting or denying prescription claims submitted to a third-party payor, is a systematic, standardized electronic process used throughout the pharmaceutical industry.

45. This uniform process is derived from National Council for Prescription Drug Programs (“NCPDP”) industry standards for the electronic transmission and adjudication of pharmacy claims. NCPDP is a non-profit organization that develops industry standards for electronic healthcare transactions used in prescribing, dispensing, monitoring, managing, and paying for medications and pharmacy services.<sup>15</sup> The NCPDP standards have been adopted in federal legislation, including Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (“HIPAA”), Medicare Modernization Act (“MMA”), Health Information Technology for Economic and

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<sup>15</sup> About NCPDP, <https://www.ncdp.org/About-Us> (last visited Mar. 20, 2017).

Clinical Health (“HITECH”), and Meaningful Use (“MU”).<sup>16</sup> For example, HIPAA requires uniform methods and codes for exchanging electronic information with health insurance plans. These standards are referred to as the NCPDP Telecommunications Standard. HIPAA also requires prescribers follow the NCPDP SCRIPT Standards when prescribing drugs under Medicare Part D. 42 C.F.R. 423.160.

46. When a consumer presents a prescription claim at a pharmacy, key information such as the consumer’s name, drug dispensed, and quantity dispensed is transmitted via interstate wire from the pharmacy to the correct third-party payor (or its agent) to process and adjudicate the claim.<sup>17</sup> The third-party payor instantaneously processes the prescription claim according to the benefits plan assigned to the consumer. The third-party payor electronically transmits via interstate wire a message back to the pharmacy indicating whether the drug and consumer are covered and, if so, the amount the pharmacy must collect from the consumer as a copayment, coinsurance, or deductible amount. Any portion of the drug price not paid by the consumer is borne by the third-party payor. The whole adjudication process occurs in a matter of seconds.

47. Walgreens, Plaintiffs, and members of the Class all participate in this automated and systematic claims adjudication process when PSC Generics are filled.

48. The out-of-pocket amount that consumers are required to pay (whether in the form of a copayment, coinsurance, or deductible amount) in order to receive the prescription is calculated based on the U&C price reported by Walgreens. The out-of-pocket amount a consumer pays cannot exceed the U&C price. The drug reimbursement amount reported to third-party payors also cannot exceed the U&C price. Thus, the price reported and charged to

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<sup>16</sup> *Id.*

<sup>17</sup> A third-party payor may utilize the services of a pharmacy benefit manager (“PBM”) as its agent to administer its prescription drug benefit.

Plaintiffs and the Class cannot exceed the U&C price. Upon information and belief, Walgreens uniformly administers its fraudulent U&C pricing scheme such that it uses the same inflated U&C price for a particular PSC Generic that it reports and charges to Plaintiffs and the Class.

**C. Pharmacies Are Required to Report the Cash Price for the Drug Being Dispensed as Their U&C Price**

49. As part of the adjudication process, the pharmacy must report the pharmacy's U&C price for the drug being dispensed. Pharmacies are required to report their U&C prices for each prescription transaction using NCPDP's mandatory pricing segment code 426-DQ.<sup>18</sup>

50. The term "usual and customary" is not ambiguous. The U&C price submitted in the adjudication process is generally defined as the cash price to the general public, exclusive of sales tax or other amounts claimed.<sup>19</sup> The following sources, among others, reflect the commonly accepted industry meaning of the term "usual and customary" price:

a) The NCPDP, which created standard billing forms used for drug claims, is a standard-setting organization that represents virtually every sector of the pharmacy services industry. NCPDP authored explanatory materials for its billing forms that state that the "usual and customary" charge field on the billing form (field 426-DQ) means "amount charged cash customers for the prescription." Congress authorized the Secretary of HHS to "adopt" standard billing forms (42 U.S.C. §1320d-1(a)), and, under that authority, the Secretary "adopted" the current NCPDP electronic form as the standard electronic health care claim form. 45 C.F.R. §162.1102 (a). *See also* 42 C.F.R. §423.160 (incorporating NCPDP standards into the Medicare Part D program).

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<sup>18</sup> *Telecommunication Version 5 Questions, Answers and Editorial Updates* at 38 (Nov. 2010), [https://ncdp.org/members/pdf/Version\\_5\\_questions\\_v35.pdf](https://ncdp.org/members/pdf/Version_5_questions_v35.pdf) (last visited Mar. 20, 2017).

<sup>19</sup> *See, e.g.,* Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services, *Handbook for Providers of Pharmacy Services*, <https://www.illinois.gov/hfs/SiteCollectionDocuments/p200.pdf> (last visited Mar. 20, 2017).

(b) The Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy (“AMCP”) is a professional association that includes health systems and PBMs. An AMCP Guide to Pharmaceutical Payment Methods (October 2007) defines “usual and customary” price as “[t]he price for a given drug or service that a pharmacy would charge a cash-paying customer without the benefit of insurance provided through a payer or intermediary with a contract with the pharmacy.” The Pharmaceutical Care Management Association, a national association dedicated to representing pharmacy benefit managers, utilizes a similar definition.

(c) Several reports by the Government Accountability Office on “usual and customary” price trends in drug pricing, issued from August 2005 through February 2011, define the “usual and customary price” as “the price an individual without prescription drug coverage would pay at a retail pharmacy.” *See, e.g.*, GAO Report, “Prescription Drugs: Trends in Usual and Customary Prices for Commonly Used Drugs,” February 10, 2011.

(d) The Code of Federal Regulations and the Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit Manual (Chapter 5, §10.2, Benefits and Beneficiary Protections, Rev. 9/30/11) define usual and customary price as “[t]he price that an out-of-network pharmacy or a physician’s office charges a customer who does not have any form of prescription drug coverage for a covered Part D drug.” 42 C.F.R. §423.100.

(e) The same Manual (Chapter 14, §50.4.2, n.1) states that the discounted prices that Wal-Mart charged to its customers “is considered Wal-Mart’s ‘usual and customary’ price.”

51. Walgreens knows exactly what is required and involved in reporting U&C prices. Walgreens formerly operated Walgreens Health Initiatives, Inc. (“WHI”), then a wholly-owned subsidiary of Walgreen Co., as the PBM arm of the company until 2011, when it was acquired by Catalyst Health Solutions, Inc.<sup>20</sup> Walgreens established WHI in 1991 to administer pharmacy benefit programs and offer pharmacy benefit management services, including, among other things, claims processing. As a PBM, WHI maintained a network of participating pharmacies, which of course included Walgreens retail pharmacies, among others.

52. A WHI January 2011 “Pharmacy Manual” was available to WHI’s network of participating pharmacies and was “intended as a guide for your pharmacy staff in claims processing, and [to] provide[] general terms, conditions, procedures, and policies of Walgreens Health Initiatives.”

53. The Pharmacy Manual states that the participating pharmacies were to use the NCPDP Standard Universal Claim Form – whether handwritten or computer generated.

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<sup>20</sup> <http://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20110309005921/en/Catalyst-Health-Solutions-Acquire-Walgreens-Health-Initiatives> (last visited Mar. 20, 2017).

54. The Pharmacy Manual provides an image of a sample Universal Claim Form.

**Sample of Universal Claim Form Below**

GROUP NO. ☐ CARDHOLDER I.D. NO. ☐ OTHER THIRD PARTY COVERAGE ☐ YES ☐ NO FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

CARD-HOLDER NAME LAST FIRST INITIAL

PHARMACY INFORMATION

NAME STREET NO. CITY, STATE & ZIP PHARM NO. PHONE

PATIENT LAST NAME FIRST & INITIAL DATE OF BIRTH SEX RELATIONSHIP TO CARDHOLDER

MO. DAY YR. M F CARD HOLDER SPOUSE CHILD OTHER

DATE RX(S) WRITTEN MO. DAY YR. DATE RX(S) FILLED MO. DAY YR. AUTHORIZED PHARMACY REPRESENTATIVE

SEE SIGNATURE LOG

RX NUMBER NEW REFILL METRIC QUANTITY DAYS SUPPLY NATIONAL DRUG CODE LABELER NO. PRODUCT NO. PKC PRESCRIBER IDENT. DAY

1 2

INGR. COST DISP. FEE TAX TOTAL PRICE DED. AMT. BAL.

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Note: Upon release, new versions of the UCF will be accepted. The following information applies to the UCF.

55. In explaining the definitions of the fields required in the Universal Claim Form, the Pharmacy Manual contains the following definition: “**Total price (required)** - total of the ingredient cost, dispensing fee, and tax (\$\$\$.\$¢¢), or the usual and customary retail, *whichever is less.*” [First emphasis in original, second emphasis added.].

56. This Pharmacy Manual also defines “U&C – Usual and Customary” as follows: “The usual and customary price refers to the *cash price including all applicable customer discounts, coupons or sale price which a cash-paying customer would pay at the pharmacy.*” [Emphasis added.].

**D. Other Pharmacies Report Their Generic Prescription Drug Discount Program Prices as Their U&C Prices**

57. Because of the price differentials, generic versions of prescription drugs are liberally and substantially substituted for their brand name counterpart. In every state, pharmacists are permitted (and, in some states, required) to substitute a generic product for a



brand name product unless the doctor has indicated that the prescription for the brand name product must be dispensed as written. Today, nearly 89% of all prescriptions are filled with generic drugs.

58. In 2006, the major retailers with pharmacy departments began offering hundreds of generic prescription drugs at reduced prices.<sup>21</sup> These retailers were likely able to absorb lower margins on generic drug sales because pharmacy sales represented a low percentage of their total sales.

59. For example, in September 2006, Wal-Mart began charging \$4 for a 30-day supply of the most commonly prescribed generic drugs and \$10 for a 90-day supply. In November of that same year, Target began charging \$4 for a 30-day supply of the most commonly prescribed generic drugs and \$10 for a 90-day supply.<sup>22</sup> Upon information and belief, Wal-Mart and Target report to health insurance plans their \$4 per 30-day supply for generic prescription drugs as their U&C prices.

60. Shortly after the implementation of these programs, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (“CMS”) offered guidance on the lower cash prices pharmacies were offering on generic prescriptions.<sup>23</sup> In the October 11, 2006 guidance, CMS was careful to note the following:

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<sup>21</sup> Tracey Walker, *Big retailers’ generic discounts validate the case for low-cost drugs*, Modern Medicine Network, Nov. 1, 2006, <http://managedhealthcareexecutive.modernmedicine.com/managed-healthcare-executive/news/clinical/pharmacy/big-retailers-generic-discounts-validate-case-lo?trendmd-shared=0> (last visited Mar. 20, 2017).

<sup>22</sup> *Target Expands \$4 Program on Generics to All Pharmacies*, The New York Times, Nov. 21, 2006, <http://www.nytimes.com/2006/11/21/business/21drug.html> (last visited Mar. 20, 2017).

<sup>23</sup> CMS, *HPMS Q & A – Lower Cash Price Policy*, Center for Beneficiary Choices, Oct. 11, 2006, [https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Prescription-Drug-Coverage/PrescriptionDrugCovContra/Downloads/QADiscountsandTrOOP\\_100606.pdf](https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Prescription-Drug-Coverage/PrescriptionDrugCovContra/Downloads/QADiscountsandTrOOP_100606.pdf) (last visited Mar. 20, 2017).

Wal-Mart recently introduced a program offering a reduced price for certain generics to its customers. The low Wal-Mart price on these specific generic drugs is considered Wal-Mart's "usual and customary" price, and is not considered a one-time "lower cash" price. Part D sponsors consider this lower amount to be "usual and customary" and will reimburse Wal-Mart on the basis of this price. To illustrate, suppose a Plan's usual negotiated price for a specific drug is \$10 with a beneficiary copay of 25% for a generic drug. Suppose Wal-Mart offers the same generic drug throughout the benefit for \$4. The Plan considers the \$4 to take place of the \$10 negotiated price. The \$4 is not considered a lower cash price, because it is not a one-time special price. The Plan will adjudicate Wal-Mart's claim for \$4 and the beneficiary will pay only a \$1 copay, rather than a \$2.50 copay. This means that both the Plan and the beneficiary are benefiting from the Wal-Mart "usual and customary" price.<sup>24</sup>

**E. Walgreens' PSC Prices Are Its True U&C Prices for PSC Generics**

61. In 2007, Walgreens created the PSC – a loyalty program targeted to cash customers – to compete with the major retailers' prices for generic drugs.<sup>25</sup>

62. Upon information and belief, Walgreens implemented the PSC program as a scheme to maximize reimbursements from third-party payors and payments from consumers through fraudulently inflated U&C prices, while still remaining competitive for cash-paying prescription drug customers.

63. The PSC program is a discount prescription drug program that offers savings on hundreds of generic prescription drugs. The PSC program is not a third-party health insurance plan; it is not insurance or a substitute for insurance. Enrollment in the PSC program was and continues to be open to cash-paying customers, but persons on Medicare or Medicaid are

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<sup>24</sup> *Id.*

<sup>25</sup> See Walgreens Boots Alliance, *Walgreen Co. Reports 34<sup>th</sup> Consecutive Year of Record Sales, Earnings*, <http://investor.walgreensbootsalliance.com/releasedetail.cfm?releaseid=337062> (last visited Mar. 20, 2017).

ineligible to participate in the program.<sup>26</sup> Walgreens charges \$20 for individuals, or \$35 for a family, to join the PSC.

64. Walgreens, through its PSC, allows cash-paying customers to purchase more than 500 widely prescribed generic drugs for \$5, \$10, and \$15 for 30-day prescriptions and \$10, \$20, and \$30 for 90-day prescriptions, depending on the drug's tier classification.

65. Walgreens' PSC formulary includes some of the most commonly used generics for cardiovascular, diabetes, pain, psychiatric illnesses, gastrointestinal disorders, and other common ailments. PSC Prices apply only to prescription generics listed on the formulary.

66. Walgreens designed the PSC program to appeal to price sensitive customers, who, for the most part, take long-term maintenance medications. Customers who take maintenance medications, many of whom are elderly or disabled, are the most valuable to Walgreens.

67. Walgreens' PSC program is not a special, limited, or a one-time offer. Any pharmacy patron, except a Medicare or Medicaid beneficiary, is eligible to participate in the program. Otherwise Walgreens does not limit the eligibility for, or duration of the availability of, PSC prices other than to require cash payment.

68. Thus, Walgreens PSC Prices clearly fit within the accepted industry meaning and Walgreens' own understanding of "usual and customary" prices, and thus, represent Walgreens' true U&C prices for the PSC Generics.

#### **F. Walgreens Improperly Overcharges Plaintiffs and the Class for PSC Generics**

69. As part of the standardized prescription claims adjudication process, Walgreens is required to accurately state its U&C price for the prescription being dispensed, in accordance with the NCPDP requirements.

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<sup>26</sup> Walgreens Prescription Savings Club, [https://www.walgreens.com/pharmacy/psc/psc\\_overview\\_page.jsp?ban=rxh\\_psc\\_3](https://www.walgreens.com/pharmacy/psc/psc_overview_page.jsp?ban=rxh_psc_3) (last visited Mar. 20, 2017).

70. The industry standards that Walgreens follows provide that the U&C price is the cash price offered to the general public for specific drugs. Walgreens offers the PSC Price as the cash price to the general public and the PSC Price is, in fact, the most common price paid by Walgreens's cash-paying customers. Thus, under industry standards and Walgreens' own definition, the PSC Price is Walgreens's U&C price for the PSC Generics. Walgreens also knows that it is industry standard that the drug reimbursement price and the amount collected from the consumer cannot exceed the U&C price.

71. Yet, Walgreens charges vastly different prices for PSC Generics depending on whether the payer is an insurer or a cash-paying PSC customer. While PSC customers pay \$5, \$10, and \$15 for 30-day prescriptions and \$10, \$20, and \$30 for 90-day prescriptions of PSC Generics, Plaintiffs and members of the Class pay much higher prices. Walgreens effectively maintains an improper dual U&C pricing structure for PSC Generics.

72. Walgreens knowingly fails to report, and continues to fail to report, the PSC Price – its true “usual and customary” price – on claims for reimbursement for PSC Generics submitted to third-party payors and charges made to consumers, like Plaintiffs and the Class.

73. When Walgreens adjudicates prescription claims for PSC Generics, it misrepresents the amount of its U&C price on the reimbursement claims forms that Walgreens submits to third-party payors. In the field requiring Walgreens to report its U&C price, Walgreens does not report its PSC price, which is its true U&C price, but instead reports a much higher price. Walgreens thus ignores the true U&C prices, and instead knowingly and improperly charges vastly inflated prices to third-party payors. As a result, because the amount a consumer must pay is dictated by the inflated U&C price communicated to the third-party payor, the amount that Walgreens charges consumers is also artificially inflated.

74. Thus, Walgreens' failure to maintain and report accurate U&C prices for PSC Generics in the company's pharmacy computer system, thus, systematically has injured and will continue to injure Plaintiffs and the Class.

75. In short, the PSC program allows Walgreens to compete with its competitors' discounted prices for its cash-paying customers while still receiving higher payments from its customers who carry insurance. Walgreens uses the PSC program to hide its true U&C prices from consumers and third-party payors, which allows Walgreens to continue charging consumers and third-party payors a higher rate for PSC Generics than cash-paying customers through the PSC program. The PSC program enables Walgreens to unlawfully report artificially inflated U&C prices to third-party payors and to collect from consumers artificially inflated copays.

76. Upon information and belief, Walgreens uses the same inflated U&C price for any given PSC Generic (of the same strength and dosage) that it reports and charges to Plaintiffs and the Class. Thus, the manner in which Walgreens fails to report and incorporate the PSC Prices into its U&C prices for the PSC Generics is uniform and systematically applied through Walgreens electronic prescription claims adjudication process.

77. Plaintiffs and members of the Class have no way of determining on their own whether the price Walgreens submits as its U&C price is, in fact, the most common price offered to cash-paying members of the general public.

78. Walgreens also did not and does not inform Plaintiffs and members of the Class, that PSC Prices for PSC Generics are lower than the amount Walgreens was charging them. Walgreens either wrongfully conceals or omits such information by failing to tell consumers and third-party payors about the PSC program, or by misrepresenting to consumers and third-party payors that the PSC program would not apply to their purchases.

79. As part of its fraudulent price scheme, Walgreens has reported and charged U&C prices for PSC Generics that, as demonstrated by the charts below, are up to 11 times the U&C prices reported by some of its most significant competitors and up to 5 times its own PSC Prices.

80. The chart below shows U&C prices submitted to New York's Medicaid program for the purposes of claims adjudication. The U&C prices submitted by Walgreens unequivocally are inflated.

DRUG	SUFFOLK COUNTY, NY				
	WalMart	Target	Shoprite	Walgreens	Walgreens (PSC Price)
Carvedilol, 6.25 mg TAB, quantity 60	\$4.00	\$4.00	\$9.99	\$43.98	\$10.00
Lisinopril, 20 mg TAB, quantity 30	\$4.00	\$4.00	\$3.99	\$17.33	\$5.00
Lisinopril/HCTZ 20, 12.5 mg TAB, quantity 30	\$4.00	\$4.00	\$9.99	\$29.99	\$10.00
Metformin HCL, 1,000 mg TAB, quantity 60	\$4.00	\$4.00	\$9.99	\$37.99	\$5.00 (90 pills)
Metoprolol, 50 mg TAB, quantity 60	\$4.00	\$4.00	\$3.99	\$19.66	\$10.00
Warfarin, 5 mg TAB, quantity 30	\$4.00	\$4.00	\$3.99	\$18.76	\$10.00
Fluoxetine, 20 mg, quantity 30	\$4.00	\$4.00	\$9.99	\$28.39	\$5.00

81. The chart below shows the U&C prices submitted to Florida's Medicaid program for purposes of claims adjudication. The U&C prices submitted by Walgreens unequivocally are inflated.

DRUG	ORLANDO, FL			
	WalMart	Winn-Dixie	Walgreens	Walgreens (PSC Price)
Carvedilol, 12.5 mg TAB, quantity 60	\$4.00	\$41.99	\$47.99	\$10.00
Metoprolol, 50 mg TAB, quantity 60	\$29.73	N/A	\$37.99	\$10.00
Warfarin, 5 mg TAB, quantity 30	\$4.00	\$21.99	\$95.99	\$10.00

82. The chart below shows U&C prices submitted to Pennsylvania's Medicaid program for the purposes of claims adjudication. The U&C prices submitted by Walgreens unequivocally are inflated.

DRUG	PHILADELPHIA, PA			
	WalMart	Shoprite	Walgreens	Walgreens (PSC Price)
Carvedilol, 12.5 mg TAB, quantity 60	\$4.00	\$7.49	\$47.99	\$10.00
Lisinopril, 20 mg TAB, quantity 30	\$4.00	\$2.99	\$18.99	\$5.00
Lisinopril/HCTZ 20, 12.5 mg TAB, quantity 30	\$9.00	\$3.99	\$23.99	\$10.00
Metformin HCL, 1000 mg TAB, quantity 60	\$9.00	\$4.00	\$31.99	\$5.00 (90 pills)
Metoprolol, 50 mg TAB, quantity 60	\$4.00	\$5.99	\$21.69	\$10.00
Warfarin, 1 mg TAB, quantity 30	\$4.00	\$4.00	\$20.69	\$5.00

### **CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

83. Plaintiffs bring this action pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(a), (b)(2), and (b)(3) on behalf of themselves and the following Class:

#### **Nationwide Class (First – Fourth and Twenty-Second Claims for Relief)**

All persons or entities in the United States and its territories who, during the applicable liability period (the “Class Period”), purchased and/or paid for some or all of the purchase price for generic prescription drugs that Walgreens included in its Prescription Savings Club (“PSC”) formulary for consumption by themselves, their families, or their members, employees, insureds, participants, or beneficiaries. For purposes of the Class definition, persons or entities “purchased” generic prescription drugs that Walgreens included in its PSC formulary if they paid or reimbursed some or all of the purchase price.

#### **OR IN THE ALTERNATIVE**

#### **State Classes (First – Twenty-Second Claims for Relief)**

All persons or entities in Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Illinois, Louisiana, Minnesota, Missouri, Nevada, North Carolina, Ohio, Texas, and Wisconsin who, during the applicable liability period (the “Class Period”),

purchased and/or paid for some or all of the purchase price for generic prescription drugs that Walgreens included in its Prescription Savings Club (“PSC”) formulary for consumption by themselves, their families, or their members, employees, insureds, participants, or beneficiaries. For purposes of the Class definition, persons or entities “purchased” generic prescription drugs that Walgreens included in its PSC formulary if they paid or reimbursed some or all of the purchase price.

84. Excluded from each Class are:

- a. Each Defendant’s officers, directors, affiliates, legal representatives, employees, successors, subsidiaries, and assigns;
- b. All governmental entities, except for governmental-funded employee benefit plans;
- c. All persons or entities who purchased PSC Generics for purposes of resale;
- d. Any judges, justices, or judicial officers presiding over this matter and the members of their immediate families and judicial staff.

85. Numerosity: The proposed Class consists of at least hundreds of thousands, and likely millions, of individual Walgreens customers as well as numerous third-party payors, making joinder of all members impractical. The exact size of the Class and the identities of the individual members thereof are ascertainable through Walgreens’ records, including, but not limited to, their billing and collection records.

86. Superiority of Class Action: Plaintiffs and the Class suffered, and will continue to suffer, harm as a result of Walgreens’ unlawful and wrongful conduct. A class action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of the present controversy. Individual joinder of all members of the Class is impractical. Even if individual Class members had the resources to pursue individual litigation, it would be unduly burdensome for the courts in which the individual litigation would proceed. Individual litigation magnifies the delay and



expense to all parties in the court system of resolving the controversies caused by Walgreens' common course of conduct. The class action device allows a single court to provide the benefits of uniform adjudication, judicial economy, and the fair and equitable handling of all the Class members' claims in a single forum.

87. Typicality: Plaintiffs' claims are typical of the claims of the Class members because Plaintiffs and all of the Class members' claims originate from the same willful conduct, practice, and procedure on the part of Walgreens and Plaintiffs possesses the same interests and has suffered the same injuries as each Class member. Like all members of the proposed Class, Walgreens overcharged Plaintiffs for PSC Generics by reporting and charging them prices that Walgreens fraudulently inflated far above its U&C prices.

88. Common Questions of Law and Fact Predominate: There are questions of law and fact common to Plaintiffs and the Class members, and those questions substantially predominate over any questions that may affect individual members of the Class within the meaning of Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 23(a)(2) and 23(b)(3). Common questions of fact and law include:

- a. Whether Walgreens artificially inflated the U&C prices it reported and charged for PSC Generics above the price that cash-paying Walgreens customers pay for the same prescriptions;
- b. Whether Walgreens omitted and concealed material facts from its communications and disclosures regarding its pricing scheme;
- c. Whether Walgreens has overcharged and continues to overcharge Plaintiffs and Class members who paid for PSC Generics;

- d. Whether Walgreens engaged in fraud, unfair methods of competition, unconscionable acts or practices, and unfair or deceptive acts or practices in connection with the pricing and sale of PSC Generics;
- e. Whether, as a result of Walgreens' misconduct, Plaintiffs and Class members have suffered damages, and, if so, the appropriate measure of damages to which they are entitled;
- f. Whether, as a result of Walgreens' misconduct, Plaintiffs and Class members are entitled to equitable or other relief, and, if so, the nature of such relief; and
- g. Whether, as a result of Walgreens' misconduct, Walgreens should be enjoined from engaging in such conduct in the future.

89. The Class has a well-defined community of interest. Walgreens has acted and failed to act on grounds generally applicable to Plaintiffs and the Class members, requiring the Court's imposition of uniform and final injunctive relief and corresponding declaratory relief to ensure compatible standards of conduct toward the Class.

90. Plaintiffs will fairly and adequately represent and protect the interests of the Class. Plaintiffs have retained counsel with substantial experience in prosecuting complex class actions. Plaintiffs and their counsel are committed to vigorously prosecuting this action on behalf of the Class and have the financial resources to do so. Neither Plaintiffs nor their counsel has any interests adverse to those of the Class members.

91. Absent a class action, most of the Class members would find the cost of litigating their claims to be prohibitive and will have no effective remedy. The class treatment of common questions of law and fact is also superior to multiple actions or piecemeal litigation in that it

conserves the resources of the courts and the litigants and promotes consistency and efficiency of adjudication.

### **TOLLING OF THE STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS**

92. Plaintiffs and the Class members had neither actual nor constructive knowledge of the facts constituting their claims for relief until recently.

93. Plaintiffs and the Class members did not discover, and could not have discovered through the exercise of reasonable diligence, the existence of the unlawful conduct alleged herein until recently.

94. Walgreens' pricing scheme did not reveal facts that would have put Plaintiffs or the Class members on notice that Walgreens was reporting and charging inflated prices for PSC Generics.

95. Because Walgreens did not disclose the pricing scheme, Plaintiffs and the Class members were unaware of Walgreens' unlawful conduct alleged herein and did not know that they were paying artificially inflated prices for PSC Generics.

96. Not only did Walgreens fail to disclose material information, but it also actively misled consumers by inflating and misrepresenting U&C prices for PSC Generics to Plaintiffs that were far higher than the PSC Prices (the actual U&C prices). Walgreens also failed to post drug prices in a clear manner and in a way that would alert Plaintiffs and the Class members to the artificially inflated prices charged by Walgreens. By so doing, Walgreens misled Plaintiffs and the Class members into overpaying for PSC Generics.

97. Walgreens' affirmative acts alleged herein, including acts in furtherance of its unlawful pricing scheme, were wrongfully concealed and carried out in manner that precluded detection.

98. Plaintiffs and the Class members could not have discovered the alleged unlawful activities at an earlier date by exercise of reasonable diligence because Walgreens employed deceptive practices and techniques of secrecy to avoid detection of its activities. Walgreens fraudulently concealed its activities by various means and methods, including misrepresentations regarding the real U&C prices of the PSC Generics.

99. Because Walgreens affirmatively concealed its pricing scheme, Plaintiffs and the Class had no knowledge until recently of the alleged fraudulent activities or information which would have caused a reasonably diligent person to investigate whether Walgreens committed the actionable activities detailed herein.

100. As a result of Walgreens' fraudulent concealment, the running of any statute of limitations has been tolled with respect to any claims that Plaintiffs and the Class members have as a result of the unlawful conduct alleged in this Complaint.

### **FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

#### **Fraud**

#### **Asserted by Plaintiffs on behalf of the Class**

101. Plaintiffs repeat each and every allegation contained in the paragraphs above and incorporate such allegations by reference herein.

102. Plaintiffs allege this claim on behalf of themselves and the Class, or, in the alternative, on behalf of each of the State Classes.

103. Walgreens materially misrepresented and concealed the true U&C prices of PSC Generics.

104. The true U&C price is material to Plaintiffs and the Class because the misrepresentation and concealment of the true U&C price of PSC Generics causes them to be unable to accurately evaluate the cost of the prescriptions being purchased and, in fact, causes

them to overpay for those prescriptions. Had they known Walgreens was reporting to and charging them inflated and false amounts, they would not have proceeded with the transactions.

105. Walgreens made such misrepresentations and omissions to Plaintiffs and the Class each time Walgreens reported and charged artificially inflated prices for PSC Generics.

106. Walgreens made these misrepresentations and omissions knowingly, or at least with reckless disregard of their falsity, given that Walgreens knew the prices it reported to third-party payors and charged to consumers were substantially (and unjustifiably) higher than the prices Walgreens charged under its PSC program to cash-paying customers.

107. Walgreens intended to induce the Plaintiffs and the members of the Class to rely on its misrepresentations and omissions. Walgreens knew that Plaintiffs and the members of the Class would rely on the accuracy of the price Walgreens reported to and charged them, and that, as a result, Plaintiffs and the members of the Class would pay higher than the true U&C prices for PSC Generics.

108. Plaintiffs and members of the Class justifiably relied on Walgreens' misrepresentations and omissions in that Plaintiffs and the Class would not have purchased or paid for PSC Generics from Walgreens at falsely inflated amounts but for Walgreens' misrepresentations and omissions. Plaintiffs and the Class' reliance on Walgreens' misrepresentations and omissions is, thus, to their detriment.

109. As a proximate result of Walgreens' conduct, Plaintiffs and the members of the Class have been damaged because they paid for PSC Generics at amounts that were far higher than the prices they would have paid but for Walgreens' misconduct.

110. Walgreens is therefore liable to Plaintiffs and the Class for the damages they sustained.

## **SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

### **Negligent Misrepresentation** **Asserted by Plaintiffs on behalf of the Class**

111. Plaintiffs repeat each and every allegation contained in paragraphs above and incorporate such allegations by reference herein.

112. Plaintiffs allege this claim on behalf of themselves and the Class, or, in the alternative, on behalf of each of the State Classes.

113. Under the circumstances alleged, Walgreens owed a duty to Plaintiffs and members of the Class to provide them with accurate information regarding the prices of their generic prescription drugs.

114. The relationship between Walgreens and Plaintiffs and the Class is one in which that Walgreens has an obligation of reasonable conduct for the benefit of the Plaintiffs and the Class. As a pharmacy providing prescription medication to consumers, Walgreens owes a duty to provide accurate information regarding the prices of generic prescription drugs, including PSC Generics. Furthermore, as a pharmacy, Walgreens is bound to the Code of Ethics for Pharmacists, which mandates Walgreens' pharmacies and the pharmacists within the pharmacies to tell the truth and to assist individuals in making the best use of medications.<sup>27</sup> Plaintiffs and the Class reasonably expected Walgreens to "help achieve optimum benefit from their medications, to be committed to their welfare, and to maintain their trust."<sup>28</sup>

115. The relationship between Walgreens and the Plaintiffs and Class is one in which Walgreens has an obligation of reasonable conduct for the benefit of Plaintiffs and the Class. As an entity that is in the business of supplying information for the guidance of both third-party

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<sup>27</sup> Code of Ethics, American Pharmacists Association, <https://www.pharmacist.com/code-ethics> (last visited Mar. 20, 2017).

<sup>28</sup> *Id.*

payors and consumers in their business transactions with Walgreens, Walgreens owes a duty to Plaintiffs and the Class to provide them with accurate information regarding the U&C price of generic prescription drugs, including PSC Generics.

116. Walgreens materially misrepresented and concealed the true U&C prices of PSC Generics.

117. The true U&C price is material to Plaintiffs and the Class because the misrepresentation and concealment of the true U&C price of PSC Generics causes them to be unable to accurately evaluate the cost of the prescriptions being purchased and in fact causes them to overpay for those prescriptions. Had they known Walgreens was reporting to and charging them inflated and false amounts, they would not have proceeded with the transactions.

118. Walgreens made such misrepresentations and omissions to Plaintiffs and the Class each time Walgreens reported and charged artificially inflated prices for PSC Generics.

119. Walgreens had no reasonable grounds to believe that these misrepresentations and omissions were true. The prices Walgreens reported to third-party payors were substantially (and unjustifiably) higher than the prices Walgreens charged under its PSC program to cash-paying customers.

120. Walgreens intended to induce the Plaintiffs and the members of the Class to rely on its misrepresentations and omissions. Walgreens knew that Plaintiffs and the members of the Class would rely on the accuracy of the price Walgreens reported to and charged them, and that, as a result, Plaintiffs and the members of the Class would pay higher prices than the true U&C prices for PSC Generics.

121. Plaintiffs and members the Class justifiably relied on Walgreens' misrepresentations and omissions in that Plaintiffs and the Class would not have purchased or

paid for PSC Generics from Walgreens at falsely inflated amounts but for Walgreens' misrepresentations and omissions. Plaintiffs and the Class' reliance on Walgreens' misrepresentations and omissions is, thus, to their detriment.

122. As a proximate result of Walgreens' negligent conduct, Plaintiffs and the Class have been damaged because they paid for PSC Generics at amounts that were far higher than the prices they would have paid but for Walgreens' misconduct.

123. Walgreens is therefore liable to Plaintiffs and the Class for the damages they sustained.

### **THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

#### **Unjust Enrichment**

#### **Asserted by Plaintiffs on behalf of the Class**

124. Plaintiffs repeat each and every allegation contained in paragraphs above and incorporate such allegations by reference herein.

125. Plaintiffs allege this claim on behalf of themselves and the Class, or, in the alternative, on behalf of each of the State Classes.

126. By means of Walgreens' wrongful conduct alleged herein, Walgreens knowingly reported to and charged Plaintiffs and the Class inflated prices for PSC Generics in a manner that is unfair and unconscionable and violates the fundamental principles of justice, equity, and good conscience.

127. Walgreens knowingly received, appreciated, and retained wrongful benefits and funds from Plaintiffs and the Class. In so doing, Walgreens acted with conscious disregard for the rights of Plaintiffs and the Class.

128. As a result of Walgreens' wrongful conduct as alleged herein, Walgreens has been unjustly enriched at the expense of, and to the detriment of, Plaintiffs and the Class.



129. Walgreens' unjust enrichment is traceable to, and resulted directly and proximately from, the conduct alleged herein.

130. Under the common law doctrine of unjust enrichment, it is inequitable for Walgreens to be permitted to retain the benefits it received, and is still receiving, without justification, from the imposition of artificially inflated prices on Plaintiffs and the Class in an unfair and unconscionable manner. Walgreens' retention of such funds under the circumstances alleged herein violates the fundamental principles of justice, equity, and good conscience and therefore constitutes unjust enrichment.

131. Plaintiffs and the Class did not confer these benefits officiously or gratuitously, and it would be inequitable and unjust for Walgreens to retain these wrongfully obtained proceeds.

132. Walgreens is therefore liable to Plaintiffs and the Class for restitution in the amount of Walgreens' wrongfully obtained profits.

#### **FOURTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

##### **Violation of the Illinois Consumer Fraud and Deceptive Business Practices Act ("ICFA")** **Asserted by Plaintiffs on behalf of the Class**

133. Plaintiffs repeat each and every allegation contained in paragraphs above and incorporate such allegations by reference herein.

134. Plaintiffs bring this claim on behalf of themselves and all members of the Class, or, in the alternative, on behalf of Illinois-only members of the Class, against Walgreens.

135. At all relevant times, each Plaintiff and member of the Class is a "person" as defined in ICFA (815 Ill. Comp. Stat. Ann. 505/1(c)) and satisfies the consumer nexus test in that Walgreens' unfair and deceptive acts and practices regarding the true U&C price of PSC Generics were directed at and impacted the market generally and/or otherwise implicate

consumer protection concerns where Walgreens' unfair and deceptive acts and practices have impacted at least thousands of consumers in Illinois and nationwide and remedying Walgreens' wrongdoing through the relief requested herein would serve the interests of consumers.

136. At all relevant and material times as described herein, Walgreens' wrongdoing alleged herein occurred in the conduct of "trade" and "commerce" as defined in ICFA where Walgreens' unfair and deceptive acts and practices regarding the true U&C price occurred during and related directly to the routine purchase and sale of PSC Generics at Walgreens pharmacies. 815 Ill. Comp. Stat. Ann. 505/1(f).

137. Under ICFA the use or employment of any practice described in Section 2 of the Uniform Deceptive Trade Practices Act ("UTPA"), 815 Ill. Comp. Stat. Ann. 510/2, in the conduct of any trade or commerce is unlawful whether any person has in fact been misled, deceived, or damaged thereby.

138. Under Section of the 2 of the UTPA, 815 Ill. Comp. Stat. Ann. 510/2, a "person engages in a deceptive trade practice when, in the course of his or her business, vocation or occupation, the person ... (11) makes false or misleading statements of fact concerning the reasons for, existence of, or amounts of price reductions; (12) engages in any other conduct which similarly creates a likelihood of confusion or misunderstanding."

139. Plaintiffs and the members of the Class have suffered losses because of Walgreens' employment of unfair or deceptive acts and practices, including (i) through deception, fraud, false pretense, false promise, misrepresentation, or concealment, suppression or omission of material fact; and/or (ii) in making false or misleading statements of fact concerning the reasons for, existence of, or amounts of price reductions, or engaging in any other conduct

which similarly creates a likelihood of confusion or misunderstanding, in the conduct of trade or commerce by, among other things:

- a. reporting to and charging Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the Class fraudulently inflated U&C prices for the PSC Generics;
- b. communicating to and charging the beneficiaries of Plaintiff IBEW Local 38, Consumer Plaintiffs, and the Class (or its beneficiaries) fraudulently inflated copayment, coinsurance, or deductible amounts that exceeded Walgreens' true U&C price;
- c. concealing from Plaintiffs and the Class the true U&C prices of the PSC Generics, and the proper amounts Walgreens should have reported to and charged Plaintiffs and the Class; and
- d. wrongfully obtaining monies from Plaintiffs and the Class as a result of its deception.

140. Walgreens willfully engaged in the unfair and deceptive acts and practices described above and knew or should have known that those acts and practices were unfair and deceptive and in violation of Illinois' Consumer Fraud and Deceptive Business Practices Act. 815 Ill. Comp. Stat. Ann. 505, *et seq.*

141. The facts that Walgreens misrepresented and concealed were material to the decisions of the Plaintiffs and the members of the Class about whether to pay for Walgreens' PSC Generics, in that they would not have proceeded with the transaction but for Walgreens' unfair and deceptive acts and practices.

142. This deception alleged herein occurred in connection with Walgreens' conduct of trade and commerce in Illinois.

143. Walgreens intended for Plaintiffs and the members of the Class to purchase PSC Generics from Walgreens in reliance upon Walgreens' unfair and deceptive acts and practices.

144. Walgreens conduct offends public policy as set forth in 225 Ill. Comp. Stat. Ann. 85/1 & 41, and is immoral, unethical, oppressive, or unscrupulous as described herein and caused substantial injury to consumers, competitors, or other business. Walgreens' unjustified, inflated pricing of PSC Generics is oppressive because it overcharges consumers and third-party payors. The pricing of PSC Generics is unethical and unscrupulous because it is the result of Walgreens' desire to achieve maximum financial gain for medically necessary drugs prescribed to consumers whose medical conditions do not allow them to decline to purchase PSC Generics.

145. As a direct and proximate result of Walgreens' unfair and deceptive acts and practices, Plaintiffs and the members of the Class were deceived into paying artificially inflated prices for PSC Generics and have been damaged thereby.

146. Walgreens is therefore liable to Plaintiffs and the members of the Class for the damages they sustained, plus statutory damages, penalties, costs, and reasonable attorneys' fees to the extent provided by law.

#### **FIFTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

##### **Violation of the Arizona Consumer Fraud Act**

**Asserted by Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 on behalf of the Arizona Members of the Class  
("Arizona Class")**

147. Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 repeats each and every allegation contained in paragraphs above and incorporates such allegations by reference herein.

148. Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 brings this claim on behalf of itself and the members of the Arizona Class against Walgreens.

149. At all relevant times, Plaintiff IBEW Local 38, the Arizona Class, and Walgreens were “persons” within the meaning of Ariz. Rev. Stat. §44-1521(6).

150. At all relevant and material times as described herein, Walgreens engaged in the sale of “merchandise” within the meaning of Ariz. Rev. Stat. §44-1521(5) when it sold PSC Generics to beneficiaries of Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the Arizona Class.

151. Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the Arizona Class have suffered losses because of Walgreens’ employment of deception, deceptive, or unfair act or practice, fraud, false pretense, false promise, misrepresentation, or concealment, suppression, or omission of material fact with intent that others rely on such concealment, suppression, or omission, in connection with the sale or advertisement of any merchandise by, among other things:

- a. reporting to and charging Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the Arizona Class fraudulently inflated U&C prices for the PSC Generics;
- b. communicating to and charging beneficiaries of Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the Arizona Class (or its beneficiaries) fraudulently inflated copayment, coinsurance, or deductible amounts that exceeded Walgreens’ true U&C price;
- c. concealing from Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the Arizona Class the true U&C prices of the PSC Generics, and the proper reimbursement amount Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the Arizona Class should have paid; and
- d. wrongfully obtaining monies from Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the Arizona Class as a result of its deception.

152. Walgreens willfully and knowingly engaged in the deceptive, fraudulent, false, and unfair acts and practices described above and knew or should have known that those acts and

practices were unconscionable, fraudulent, false and unfair, and thus in violation of Arizona's Consumer Fraud Act, Ariz. Rev. Stat. §§44-1521, *et seq.*

153. The facts that Walgreens misrepresented and concealed were material to the decisions of Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the members of the Arizona Class about whether to pay for Walgreens' PSC Generics, in that they would not have proceeded with the transaction but for Walgreens' deceptive, fraudulent, false, and unfair acts and practices.

154. Walgreens intended for Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the members of the Arizona Class to pay for PSC Generics in reliance upon Walgreens' deceptive, fraudulent, false, and unfair acts and practices.

155. As a direct and proximate result of Walgreens' deceptive, fraudulent, false, and unfair acts and practices, Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the members of the Arizona Class were deceived into paying artificially inflated prices for PSC Generics and have been damaged thereby.

156. Walgreens is therefore liable to Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the members of the Arizona Class for the damages they sustained, plus statutory damages, penalties, injunctive relief, costs, and reasonable attorneys' fees to the extent provided by law.

#### **SIXTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

##### **Violation of the California Unfair Competition Law** **(Based on Fraudulent Acts and Practices)**

**Asserted by Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 on behalf of the California Members of the Class  
("California Class")**

157. Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 repeats each and every allegation contained in paragraphs above and incorporates such allegations by reference herein.

158. Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 brings this claim on behalf of itself and the members of the California Class against Walgreens.

159. At all relevant times, Walgreens, Plaintiff IBEW Local 38, and the California Class were “persons” within the meaning of Cal. Bus. Prof. Code §17204.

160. Under Business and Professions Code §17200, any business act or practice that is likely to deceive members of the public constitutes a fraudulent business act or practice.

161. Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the California Class have suffered losses because of Walgreens’ employment of fraudulent business acts or practices in connection with the sale of PSC Generics to Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the California Class, by, among other things:

- a. reporting to and charging Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the California Class fraudulently inflated U&C prices for the PSC Generics;
- b. communicating to and charging the beneficiaries of Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the California Class (or its beneficiaries) fraudulently inflated copayment, coinsurance, or deductible amounts that exceeded Walgreens’ true U&C price;
- c. concealing from Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the California Class the true U&C prices of the PSC Generics, and the proper reimbursement amount Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the California Class should have paid; and
- d. wrongfully obtaining monies from Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the California Class as a result of its deception.

162. Walgreens willfully and knowingly engaged in the deceptive and unfair acts and practices described above and knew or should have known that those acts and practices were fraudulent and thus in violation of California’s Unfair Competition Law, Cal. Bus. Prof. Code §17200, *et seq.*

163. The facts that Walgreens misrepresented and concealed were material to the decisions of Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the members of the California Class about whether to

pay for Walgreens' PSC Generics, in that they would not have proceeded with the transaction but for Walgreens' deceptive, fraudulent, false, and unfair acts and practices.

164. Walgreens intended for Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the members of the California Class to pay for PSC Generics in reliance upon Walgreens' deceptive, fraudulent, false, and unfair acts and practices.

165. As a direct and proximate result of Walgreens' deceptive, fraudulent, false, and unfair acts and practices, Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the California Class were deceived into paying artificially inflated prices for PSC Generics and have been damaged thereby.

166. Walgreens is therefore liable to Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the California Class for restitution, injunctive relief, costs, and reasonable attorneys' fees to the extent provided by law.

#### **SEVENTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

##### **Violation of the California Unfair Competition Law (Based on Unfair Acts and Practices)** **Asserted by Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 on behalf of the California Class**

167. Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 repeats each and every allegation contained in paragraphs above and incorporates such allegations by reference herein.

168. Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 brings this claim on behalf of itself and the members of the California Class against Walgreens.

169. At all relevant times, Walgreens, Plaintiff IBEW Local 38, and the California Class were "persons" within the meaning of Cal. Bus. Prof. Code §17204.

170. Under Business and Professions Code §17200, any business act or practice that is unethical, oppressive, unscrupulous, and/or substantially injurious to consumers, or that violates a legislatively declared policy, constitutes an unfair business act or practice. Walgreens' unjustified, inflated pricing of PSC Generics is oppressive because it overcharges consumers and



third-party payors. The pricing of PSC Generics is unethical and unscrupulous because it is the result of Walgreens' desire to achieve maximum financial gain for medically necessary drugs prescribed to consumers whose medical conditions do not allow them to decline to purchase PSC Generics.

171. Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the California Class have suffered losses because of Walgreens' employment of unfair business acts or practices in connection with the sale of PSC Generics to Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the California Class, by, among other things:

- a. reporting to and charging Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the California Class fraudulently inflated U&C prices for the PSC Generics;
- b. communicating to and charging beneficiaries of Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the California Class (or its beneficiaries) fraudulently inflated copayment, coinsurance, or deductible amounts that exceeded Walgreens' true U&C price;
- c. concealing from Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the California Class the true U&C prices of the PSC Generics, and the proper reimbursement amount Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the California Class should have paid; and
- d. wrongfully obtaining monies from Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the California Class as a result of its deception.

172. Defendants have engaged, and continue to engage, in conduct that violates the legislatively declared policies of: (1) California Civil Code §§1572, 1573, 1709, 1710, 1711 against committing fraud and deceit; (2) California Civil Code §1770 against committing acts and practices intended to deceive consumers regarding the representation of goods in certain particulars; (3) the FTCA, 15 U.S.C. §45(a)(1), against unfair or deceptive practices; and Cal. Penal Code §550 against making false, misleading, or fraudulent claims related to health or other

insurance benefits; (4) 42 C.F.R. §447.512(b)(2), require pharmacies to charge Medicare Part D members no more than the provider's "usual and customary charges to the general public."; and (5) Cal. Welf. & Inst. Code §14105.455, requiring pharmacy providers to submit their usual and customary charge when billing the Medi-Cal program for prescribed drugs. Defendants gain an unfair advantage over their competitors, whose practices relating to other similar products must comply with these laws.

173. Walgreens' conduct, including misrepresenting the U&C price of PSC Generics, is substantially injurious to consumers. Such conduct has caused, and continues to cause, substantial injury to consumers because consumers would not have continued with the transaction but for Walgreens' deceptive, fraudulent, false, and unfair acts and practices. Consumers have thus overpaid for PSC Generics. Such injury is not outweighed by any countervailing benefits to consumers or competition. Indeed, no benefit to consumers or competition results from Defendants' conduct. Since consumers reasonably rely on Defendants' representations of their merchandise and injury results from ordinary use of their merchandise, consumers could not have reasonably avoided such injury. *Davis v. Ford Motor Credit Co.*, 179 Cal. App. 4th 581, 597-98 (2009); *see also Drum v. San Fernando Valley Bar Ass'n*, 182 Cal. App. 4th 247, 257 (2010) (outlining the third test based on the definition of "unfair" in Section 5 of the FTC Act).

174. Walgreens willfully and knowingly engaged in the deceptive and unfair acts and practices described above and knew or should have known that those acts and practices were unlawful and thus in violation of California's Unfair Competition Law, Cal. Bus. Prof. Code §17200, *et seq.*

175. The facts that Walgreens misrepresented and concealed were material to the decisions of Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the members of the California Class about whether to pay for Walgreens' PSC Generics, in that they would not have proceeded with the transaction but for Walgreens' deceptive, fraudulent, false, and unfair acts and practices.

176. Walgreens intended for Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the members of the California Class to pay for PSC Generics in reliance upon Walgreens' deceptive, fraudulent, false, and unfair acts and practices.

177. As a direct and proximate result of Walgreens' deceptive, fraudulent, false, and unfair acts and practices, Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the members of the California Class were deceived into paying artificially inflated prices for PSC Generics and have been damaged thereby.

178. Walgreens is therefore liable to Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the members of the California Class for restitution, injunctive relief, costs, and reasonable attorneys' fees to the extent provided by law.

### **EIGHTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

#### **Violation of the California Unfair Competition Law** **(Based on Unlawful Acts and Practices)**

**Asserted by Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 on behalf of the California Class**

179. Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 repeats each and every allegation contained in paragraphs above and incorporates such allegations by reference herein.

180. Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 brings this claim on behalf of itself and the members of the California Class against Walgreens.

181. At all relevant times, Walgreens, Plaintiff IBEW Local 38, and the California Class were "persons" within the meaning of Cal. Bus. Prof. Code §17204.

182. The violation of any law constitutes an unlawful business practice under Business and Professions Code §17200.

183. Walgreens violated §17200's prohibition against engaging in unlawful acts and practices by, inter alia, making the representations and omissions of material facts, as set forth more fully herein, and violating California Civil Code §§1572, 1573, 1709, 1710, 1711, 1770, California Business & Professions Code §17200, et seq., the Federal Trade Commission Act ("FTCA"), 15 U.S.C. §45(a)(1), Cal. Penal Code §550, 42 C.F.R. §447.512(b)(2), Cal. Welf. & Inst. Code §14105.455, and by violating the common law. By violating these laws, Walgreens has engaged in unlawful business acts and practices which constitute unfair competition within the meaning of Business & Professions Code §17200.

184. Walgreens willfully and knowingly engaged in the unlawful acts and practices alleged herein above and knew or should have known that those acts and practices were unlawful and thus in violation of California's Unfair Competition Law, Cal. Bus. Prof. Code §17200, *et seq.*

185. The facts that Walgreens misrepresented and concealed were material to the decisions of Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the members of the California Class about whether to pay for Walgreens' PSC Generics, in that they would not have proceeded with the transaction but for Walgreens' unlawful, deceptive, fraudulent, false, and unfair acts and practices.

186. Walgreens intended for Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the members of the California Class to pay for PSC Generics in reliance upon Walgreens' unlawful, deceptive, fraudulent, false, and unfair acts and practices.

187. As a direct and proximate result of Walgreens' unlawful, deceptive, fraudulent, false, and unfair acts and practices, Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the members of the California

Class were deceived into paying artificially inflated prices for PSC Generics and have been damaged thereby.

188. Walgreens is therefore liable to Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the members of the California Class for restitution, injunctive relief, costs, and reasonable attorneys' fees to the extent provided by law.

### **NINTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

#### **Violation of the Consumers Legal Remedies Act ("CLRA") (for Injunctive Relief)** **Asserted by Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 on behalf of the California Class**

189. Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 repeats each and every allegation contained in paragraphs above and incorporates such allegations by reference herein.

190. Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 brings this claim on behalf of itself and the members of the California Class against Walgreens.

191. Walgreens is a "person" within the meaning of Cal. Civ. Code §1761(c).

192. Each sale by Walgreens of a PSC Generic constitutes a "transaction" within the meaning of Cal. Civ. Code §1761(e).

193. The PSC Generics that Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and California Class members paid for are "goods" within the meaning of Cal. Civ. Code §1761(a).

194. Beneficiaries of Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and similarly situated Class members are "consumers" within the meaning of Cal. Civ. Code §1761(d).

195. Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and similarly situated California Class members paid for prescriptions of their beneficiaries. These payments arose from Walgreens' sales of PSC Generics to their beneficiaries for the medically-necessary treatment of illnesses, which qualify as transactions that resulted in the sale of goods to consumers for personal use within the meaning of Cal. Civ. Code §§1761 and 1770(a).

196. Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the California Class have suffered losses because of Walgreens' employment of deceptive, fraudulent, false and unfair business acts or practices in connection with the sale of PSC Generics to Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the California Class, by, among other things:

- a. reporting to and charging Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the California Class fraudulently inflated U&C prices for the PSC Generics;
- b. communicating to and charging beneficiaries of Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the California Class (or its beneficiaries) fraudulently inflated copayment, coinsurance, or deductible amounts that exceeded Walgreens' true U&C price;
- c. concealing from Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the California Class the true U&C prices of the PSC Generics, and the proper reimbursement amount Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the California Class should have paid; and
- d. wrongfully obtaining monies from Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the California Class as a result of its deception.

197. The acts and practices of Walgreens as described above were intended to deceive Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and members of the California Class as described herein, and have resulted, and will result in, damages to Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and members of the California Class. These actions violated and continue to violate: (i) §1770(a)(13) of the CLRA, in that Walgreens' acts and practices constitute false or misleading statements of fact concerning reasons for, existence of, or amounts of price reductions; and (ii) §1770(a)(16) of the CLRA, in that Walgreens' acts and practices constitute false or misleading statements of fact in representing that the subject of a transaction has been supplied in accordance with a previous representation when it has not.

198. By committing the acts alleged above, Walgreens has violated the CLRA.

199. Walgreens willfully and knowingly engaged in the deceptive, fraudulent, false, and unfair acts and practices alleged herein above and knew or should have known that those acts and practices were deceptive, fraudulent, false and unfair and thus in violation of the CLRA.

200. The facts that Walgreens misrepresented and concealed were material to the decisions of Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the members of the California Class about whether to pay for Walgreens' PSC Generics, in that they would not have proceeded with the transaction but for Walgreens' deceptive, fraudulent, false, and unfair acts and practices.

201. Walgreens intended for Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the members of the California Class to pay for PSC Generics in reliance upon Walgreens' deceptive, fraudulent, false, and unfair acts and practices.

202. As a direct and proximate result of Walgreens' deceptive, fraudulent, false, and unfair acts and practices, Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the members of the California Class were deceived into paying artificially inflated prices for PSC Generics and have been damaged thereby.

203. Walgreens is therefore liable to Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the members of the California Class for injunctive relief, costs, and reasonable attorneys' fees to the extent provided by law.

**TENTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

**Violation of the Colorado Consumer Protection Act  
Asserted by Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 on behalf of the  
Colorado Members of the Class (“Colorado Class”)**

204. Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 repeats each and every allegation contained in paragraphs above and incorporates such allegations by reference herein.

205. Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 brings this claim on behalf of itself and the members of the Colorado Class against Walgreens.

206. At all relevant times, Walgreens, Plaintiff IBEW Local 38, and the Colorado Class were “persons” within the meaning of Colo. Rev. Stat. §§6-1-102(6).

207. At all relevant and material times as described herein, Walgreens was engaged “in the course of [its] business” within the meaning of Colo. Rev. Stat. §6-1-105 when it sold PSC Generics to beneficiaries of Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the Colorado Class.

208. Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the Colorado Class have suffered losses because of Walgreens’ knowing and intentional use and employment of deceptive or unfair acts or practices in the course of its business, as defined in Colo. Rev. Stat. §6-1-105(l) in “[m]ak[ing] false or misleading statements of fact concerning the price of goods [or] services,” and in Colo. Rev. Stat. §6-1-105(u) in “[f]ail[ing] to disclose material information concerning goods, services, or property which information was known at the time of an advertisement or sale if such failure to disclose such information was intended to induce the consumer to enter into a transaction,” in connection with the sale of PSC Generics to Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the Colorado Class:

- a. reporting to and charging Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the Class fraudulently inflated U&C prices for the PSC Generics;



- b. communicating to and charging beneficiaries of Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the Colorado Class (or its beneficiaries) fraudulently inflated copayment, coinsurance, or deductible amounts that exceeded Walgreens' true U&C price;
- c. concealing from Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the Colorado Class the true U&C prices of the PSC Generics, and the proper reimbursement amount Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the Colorado Class should have paid; and
- d. wrongfully obtaining monies from Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the Colorado Class as a result of its deception.

209. Walgreens willfully and knowingly engaged in the deceptive and unfair acts and practices described above and knew or should have known that those acts and practices were unfair and deceptive and thus in violation of Colorado's Consumer Protection Act, Colo. Rev. Stat. §§6-1-101, *et seq.*

210. The facts that Walgreens misrepresented and concealed were material to the decisions of Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the members of the Colorado Class about whether to pay for Walgreens' PSC Generics, in that they would not have proceeded with the transaction but for Walgreens' deceptive, fraudulent, false, and unfair acts and practices.

211. Walgreens intended for Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the members of the Colorado Class to pay for PSC Generics in reliance upon Walgreens' deceptive, fraudulent, false, and unfair acts and practices.

212. Walgreens' unfair and deceptive trade practices significantly impact the public as actual or potential consumers of Walgreens' goods and services in that the actions and transactions alleged herein substantially affected the people of Colorado, with thousands of TPPs

and consumers in Colorado paying substantially higher prices for PSC Generics at Colorado Walgreens pharmacies.

213. As a direct and proximate result of Walgreens' deceptive, fraudulent, false, and unfair acts and practices, Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the members of the Colorado Class were deceived into paying artificially inflated prices for PSC Generics and have been damaged thereby.

214. Walgreens is therefore liable to Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the members of the Colorado Class for the damages they sustained, plus statutory damages, penalties, injunctive relief, costs, and reasonable attorneys' fees to the extent provided by law.

#### **ELEVENTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

##### **Violation of the Florida Deceptive Trade Practices Act Asserted by Plaintiff Russo and Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 on behalf of Florida Members of Class ("Florida Class")**

215. Plaintiff Russo and Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 repeat each and every allegation contained in paragraphs above and incorporate such allegations by reference herein.

216. Plaintiff Russo and Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 bring this claim individually and on behalf of the Florida Class members against Walgreens.

217. Plaintiff Russo, Plaintiff IBEW Local 38, and the Florida Class are "consumers" within the meaning of Fla. Stat. §501.203(7).

218. Walgreens' transactions with Plaintiff Russo, Plaintiff IBEW Local 38, and the Florida Class as described herein occurred "in the conduct of any trade or commerce" within the meaning of Fla. Stat. §§501.202 and 501.203(8).

219. Plaintiff Russo, Plaintiff IBEW Local 38, and the Florida Class suffered damages as a consequence of Walgreens' knowing and intentional use and employment of

unconscionable, deceptive, or unfair acts or practices in the conduct of any trade or commerce in connection with the sale of PSC Generics to Plaintiff Russo, Plaintiff IBEW Local 38, and the Florida Class, including, among other things:

- a. reporting to and charging Plaintiff IBEW Local 38, Plaintiff Russo, and the Florida Class fraudulently inflated U&C prices for the PSC Generics;
- b. communicating to and charging beneficiaries of Plaintiff IBEW Local 38, Plaintiff Russo, and the Florida Class (or its beneficiaries) fraudulently inflated copayment, coinsurance, or deductible amounts that exceeded Walgreens' true U&C price;
- c. concealing from Plaintiff IBEW Local 38, Plaintiff Russo, and the Florida Class the true U&C prices of the PSC Generics, and the proper copayment, coinsurance, or deductible amount Walgreens should have charged the Plaintiff Russo and the Florida Class; and
- d. wrongfully obtaining monies from Plaintiff IBEW Local 38, Plaintiff Russo, and the Florida Class as a result of its deception.

220. Walgreens willfully engaged in the unfair and/or deceptive acts and/or practices described above and knew or should have known that those acts and/or practices were unconscionable, unfair and/or deceptive and in violation of Florida's Deceptive and Unfair Trade Practices Act, Fla. Stat. §501.201, *et seq.*

221. As a direct and proximate result of Walgreens' unfair and deceptive acts and practices, Plaintiff Russo, Plaintiff IBEW Local 38, and the Florida Class members have paid falsely inflated prices for PSC Generics and have been damaged thereby.

222. Walgreens therefore is liable to Plaintiff Russo, Plaintiff IBEW Local 38, and the Florida Class for the damages they sustained, plus statutory damages (including treble damages), penalties, injunctive relief, costs, and reasonable attorneys' fees to the extent provided by law.

**TWELFTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

**Violation of the Georgia Uniform Deceptive Trade Practices Act  
Asserted by Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 on behalf of Georgia Members of the Class  
("Georgia Class")**

223. Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 repeats each and every allegation contained in paragraphs above and incorporates such allegations by reference herein.

224. Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 brings this claim on behalf of itself and the members of the Georgia Class against Walgreens.

225. At all relevant times, Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the Georgia Class are "persons" within the meaning of Ga. Code Ann. §10-1-371(5).

226. Walgreens' transactions with Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the Georgia Class as described herein occurred in the course of Walgreens' "business" within the meaning of Ga. Code Ann. §10-1-370, *et seq.*

227. The Georgia Uniform Deceptive Trade Practices Act, Ga. Code Ann. §10-1-372, prohibits "deceptive trade practices," which include "(11) Mak[ing] false or misleading statements concerning the reasons for, existence of, or amounts of price reductions; or (12) Engag[ing] in any other conduct which similarly creates a likelihood of confusion or of misunderstanding."

228. Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the Georgia Class have suffered losses because of Walgreens' employment of unfair or deceptive acts or practices in the course of its business in omitting the existence of a price reduction in the sale of PSC Generics, by, among other things:

- a. reporting to and charging Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the Georgia Class fraudulently inflated U&C prices for the PSC Generics;
- b. communicating to and charging beneficiaries of Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the Georgia Class (or its beneficiaries) fraudulently inflated copayment, coinsurance, or deductible amounts that exceeded Walgreens' true U&C price;
- c. concealing from Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the Georgia Class the true U&C prices of the PSC Generics, and the proper reimbursement amount Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the Georgia Class should have paid; and
- d. wrongfully obtaining monies from Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the Georgia Class as a result of its deception.

229. Walgreens willfully and knowingly engaged in the deceptive trade practices described above and knew or should have known that those practices were deceptive in violation of the Georgia Uniform Deceptive Trade Practices Act, Ga. Code Ann. §10-1-370, et seq.

230. The facts that Walgreens misrepresented and concealed were material to the decisions of Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the members of the Georgia Class about whether to pay for Walgreens' PSC Generics, in that they would not have proceeded with the transaction but for Walgreens' deceptive, fraudulent, false, and unfair acts and practices.

231. Walgreens intended for Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the members of the Georgia Class to pay for PSC Generics in reliance upon Walgreens' deceptive, fraudulent, false, and unfair acts and practices.

232. As a direct and proximate result of Walgreens' deceptive, fraudulent, false, and unfair acts and practices, Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the members of the Georgia Class were

deceived into paying artificially inflated prices for PSC Generics and have been damaged thereby.

233. Walgreens is therefore liable to Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the members of the Georgia Class for the damages they sustained, plus statutory damages, penalties, injunctive relief, costs, and reasonable attorneys' fees to the extent provided by law.

### **THIRTEENTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

#### **Violation of the Louisiana Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Law Asserted by Plaintiff Termine and Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 on behalf of Louisiana Members of the Class ("Louisiana Class")**

234. Plaintiff Termine and Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 repeat each and every allegation contained in paragraphs above and incorporate such allegations by reference herein.

235. Plaintiff Termine and Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 bring this claim individually and on behalf of the Louisiana Class members against Walgreens.

236. Plaintiff Termine, Plaintiff IBEW Local 38, and the Louisiana Class are "consumers" within the meaning of La. Rev. Stat. §51:1402(1).

237. Walgreens' transactions with Plaintiff Termine, Plaintiff IBEW Local 38, and the Louisiana Class as described were done "in the conduct of any trade or commerce" within the meaning of La. Rev. Stat. §51:1405.

238. Plaintiff Termine, Plaintiff IBEW Local 38, and the Louisiana Class suffered injury and ascertainable losses of money and property as a consequence of Walgreens' knowing and intentional use and employment of false, misleading, and deceptive acts or practices in connection with the sale of PSC Generics to Plaintiff Termine, Plaintiff IBEW Local 38, and the Louisiana Class, including, among other things:

- a. reporting to and charging Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the Louisiana Class fraudulently inflated U&C prices for the PSC Generics;
- b. communicating to and charging the beneficiaries of Plaintiff IBEW Local 38, Plaintiff Termine, and the members of the Louisiana Class (or its beneficiaries) fraudulently inflated copayment, coinsurance, or deductible amounts that exceeded Walgreens' true U&C price;
- c. concealing from Plaintiffs and the Louisiana Class the true U&C prices of the PSC Generics, and the proper copayment, coinsurance, or deductible amount Walgreens should have charged Plaintiff Termine and the Louisiana Class; and
- d. wrongfully obtaining monies from Plaintiffs and the Louisiana Class as a result of its deception.

239. Walgreens willfully engaged in the unfair and/or deceptive acts and/or practices described above and knew or should have known that those acts and/or practices were unfair and/or deceptive and in violation of the Louisiana Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Law, La. Rev. Stat. §51:1401, *et seq.* Such conduct offends established public policy and is immoral, unethical, oppressive, unscrupulous, or substantially injurious. Walgreens' unjustified, inflated pricing of PSC Generics is oppressive because it overcharges consumers and third-party payors. The pricing of PSC Generics is unethical and unscrupulous because it is the result of Walgreens' desire to achieve maximum financial gain for medically necessary drugs prescribed to consumers whose medical conditions do not allow them to decline to purchase PSC Generics.

240. As a direct and proximate result of Walgreens' unfair and deceptive acts and practices, Plaintiff Termine, Plaintiff IBEW Local 38, and the Louisiana Class have paid falsely

inflated prices for PSC Generics and have suffered injury and ascertainable losses of money and property thereby.

241. Walgreens therefore is liable to Plaintiff Termine, Plaintiff IBEW Local 38, and the Louisiana Class for the damages they sustained, plus statutory damages (including treble damages), penalties, injunctive relief, costs, and reasonable attorneys' fees to the extent provided by law.

**FOURTEENTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

**Violation of the Minnesota Prevention of Consumer Fraud Act**

**Minn. Stat. §325F.68, et seq.**

**Asserted by Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 on behalf of Minnesota Members of the Class  
("Minnesota Class")**

242. Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 repeats each and every allegation contained in paragraphs above and incorporates such allegations by reference herein.

243. Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 brings this claim on behalf of itself and the members of the Minnesota Class against Walgreens.

244. Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 paid for PSC Generics, which were purchased by their members for their own personal use.

245. The Minnesota Prevention of Consumer Fraud Act ("MPCFA") makes illegal "[t]he act, use, or employment by any person of any fraud, false pretense, false promise, misrepresentation, misleading statement or deceptive practice, with the intent that others rely thereon in connection with the sale of any merchandise." Minn. Stat. §325F.69.

246. The MPCFA does not require a showing of damage, and provides for liability "whether or not any person has in fact been misled, deceived, or damaged." *Id.*

247. Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the Minnesota Class have suffered losses because of Walgreens' employment of unfair or deceptive acts or practices by, among other things:



- a. reporting to and charging Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the Minnesota Class fraudulently inflated U&C prices for the PSC Generics;
- b. communicating to and charging beneficiaries of Plaintiff IBEW Local 38, consumers, and the Minnesota Class (or its beneficiaries) fraudulently inflated copayment, coinsurance, or deductible amounts that exceeded Walgreens' true U&C price;
- c. concealing from Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the Minnesota Class the true U&C prices of the PSC Generics, and the proper reimbursement amount Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the Minnesota Class should have paid; and
- d. wrongfully obtaining monies from Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the Minnesota Class as a result of its deception.

248. Walgreens willfully and knowingly engaged in the deceptive trade practices described above and knew or should have known that those practices were deceptive in violation of MPCFA, Minn. Stat. §325F.68, *et seq.*

249. The facts that Walgreens misrepresented and concealed were material to the decisions of Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the members of the Minnesota Class about whether to pay for Walgreens' PSC Generics, in that they would not have proceeded with the transaction but for Walgreens' deceptive, fraudulent, false, and unfair acts and practices.

250. Walgreens intended for Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the members of the Minnesota Class to pay for PSC Generics in reliance upon Walgreens' deceptive, fraudulent, false, and unfair acts and practices.

251. As a direct and proximate result of Walgreens' deceptive, fraudulent, false, and unfair acts and practices, Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the members of the Minnesota Class were

deceived into paying artificially inflated prices for PSC Generics and have been damaged thereby.

252. Where, as here, Plaintiff IBEW Local 38's claims inure to the public benefit as a result of Walgreens' acts described herein to the public at large, Minnesota's private attorney general statute, Minn. Stat. §8.31, subd. 3a, allows parties injured through a violation of the consumer protection statutes to bring a civil action and recover damages, together with costs and disbursements, including reasonable attorneys' fees.

253. Walgreens is therefore liable to Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the members of the Minnesota Class for the damages they sustained, plus statutory damages, penalties, injunctive relief, costs, and reasonable attorneys' fees to the extent provided by law, in accordance with Minn. Stat. §325F.70 and as authorized by Minn. Stat. §8.31, subd. 3a.

#### **FIFTEENTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

##### **Violation of the Minnesota Unlawful Trade Practices Act**

##### **Minn. Stat. §325D.09, et seq.**

##### **Asserted by Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 on behalf of the Minnesota Class**

254. Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 repeats each and every allegation contained in paragraphs above and incorporates such allegations by reference herein.

255. Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 brings this claim on behalf of itself and the members of the Minnesota Class against Walgreens.

256. Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 paid for PSC Generics, which were purchased by their members for their own personal use.

257. The Minnesota Unlawful Trade Practices Act ("MUTPA") provides that "[n]o person shall, in connection with the sale of merchandise at retail, or in, or in connection with the use of, samples, catalogs, or other forms of advertising listing merchandise for sale at retail,

display price tags or price quotations in any form showing prices which are fictitiously in excess of the actual prices at which such merchandise is regularly and customarily sold at retail by such person or by the person issuing such samples, catalogs, or other forms of advertising.” Minn. Stat. §325D.12(3).

258. The Minnesota legislature has found that such practices “mislead consumers into believing that they are buying merchandise at prices substantially below regular retail prices, when in fact they are not” and “that they constitute unfair and fraudulent competition and unsound and uneconomic methods of distribution.” Minn. Stat. §325D.09.

259. Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the Minnesota Class have suffered losses because of Walgreens’ employment of unfair or deceptive acts or practices by, among other things:

- a. reporting to and charging Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the Minnesota Class fraudulently inflated U&C prices for the PSC Generics;
- b. communicating to and charging beneficiaries of Plaintiff IBEW Local 38, consumers, and the Minnesota Class (or its beneficiaries) fraudulently inflated copayment, coinsurance, or deductible amounts that exceeded Walgreens’ true U&C price;
- c. concealing from Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the Minnesota Class the true U&C prices of the PSC Generics, and the proper reimbursement amount Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the Minnesota Class should have paid; and
- d. wrongfully obtaining monies from Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the Minnesota Class as a result of its deception.

260. Walgreens willfully and knowingly engaged in the deceptive trade practices described above and knew or should have known that those practices were deceptive in violation of MUTPA, Minn. Stat. §325D.09, *et seq.*

261. The facts that Walgreens misrepresented and concealed were material to the decisions of Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the members of the Minnesota Class about whether to pay for Walgreens' PSC Generics, in that they would not have proceeded with the transaction but for Walgreens' deceptive, fraudulent, false, and unfair acts and practices.

262. Walgreens intended for Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the members of the Minnesota Class to pay for PSC Generics in reliance upon Walgreens' deceptive, fraudulent, false, and unfair acts and practices.

263. As a direct and proximate result of Walgreens' deceptive, fraudulent, false, and unfair acts and practices, Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the members of the Minnesota Class were deceived into paying artificially inflated prices for PSC Generics and have been damaged thereby.

264. Where, as here, Plaintiff IBEW Local 38's claims inure to the public benefit as a result of Walgreens' acts described herein to the public at large, Minnesota's private attorney general statute, Minn. Stat. §8.31, subd. 3a, allows parties injured through a violation of the consumer protection statutes to bring a civil action and recover damages, together with costs and disbursements, including reasonable attorneys' fees.

265. Walgreens is therefore liable to Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the members of the Minnesota Class for the damages they sustained, plus statutory damages, penalties, injunctive relief, costs, and reasonable attorneys' fees to the extent provided by law, in accordance with Minn. Stat. §325D.15 and as authorized by Minn. Stat. §8.31, subd. 3a.

**SIXTEENTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

**Violation of the Minnesota Deceptive Trade Practices Act**

**Minn. Stat. §325D.43, et seq.**

**Asserted by Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 on behalf of the Minnesota Class**

266. Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 repeats each and every allegation contained in paragraphs above and incorporates such allegations by reference herein.

267. Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 brings this claim on behalf of itself and the members of the Minnesota Class against Walgreens.

268. Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 paid for PSC Generics, which were purchased by their members for their own personal use.

269. The MUDTPA provides that “[a] person engages in a deceptive trade practice when, in the course of business, vocation, or occupation, the person: [. . .] makes false or misleading statements of fact concerning the reasons for, existence of, or amounts of price reductions.” Minn. Stat. §325D.44, subd.1(11).

270. Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the Minnesota Class have suffered losses because of Walgreens’ employment of unfair or deceptive acts or practices by, among other things:

- a. reporting to and charging Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the Minnesota Class fraudulently inflated U&C prices for the PSC Generics;
- b. communicating to and charging beneficiaries of Plaintiff IBEW Local 38, consumers, and the Minnesota Class (or its beneficiaries) fraudulently inflated copayment, coinsurance, or deductible amounts that exceeded Walgreens’ true U&C price;

- c. concealing from Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the Minnesota Class the true U&C prices of the PSC Generics, and the proper reimbursement amount Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the Minnesota Class should have paid; and
- d. wrongfully obtaining monies from Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the Minnesota Class as a result of its deception.

271. Walgreens willfully and knowingly engaged in the deceptive trade practices described above and knew or should have known that those practices were deceptive in violation of the MUDTPA.

272. The facts that Walgreens misrepresented and concealed were material to the decisions of Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the members of the Minnesota Class about whether to pay for Walgreens' PSC Generics, in that they would not have proceeded with the transaction but for Walgreens' deceptive, fraudulent, false, and unfair acts and practices.

273. Walgreens intended for Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the members of the Minnesota Class to pay for PSC Generics in reliance upon Walgreens' deceptive, fraudulent, false, and unfair acts and practices.

274. As a direct and proximate result of Walgreens' deceptive, fraudulent, false, and unfair acts and practices, Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the members of the Minnesota Class were deceived into paying artificially inflated prices for PSC Generics and have been damaged thereby.

275. Where, as here, Plaintiff IBEW Local 38's claims inure to the public benefit as a result of Walgreens' acts described herein to the public at large, Minnesota's private attorney general statute, Minn. Stat. §8.31, subd. 3a, allows parties injured through a violation of the

consumer protection statutes to bring a civil action and recover damages, together with costs and disbursements, including reasonable attorneys' fees.

276. Walgreens is therefore liable to Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the members of the Minnesota Class for the damages they sustained, plus statutory damages, penalties, injunctive relief, costs, and reasonable attorneys' fees to the extent provided by law, in accordance with Minn. Stat. §325D.45 and as authorized by Minn. Stat. §8.31, subd. 3a.

### **SEVENTEENTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

#### **Violation of the Missouri Merchandising Practices Act Asserted by Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 on behalf of the Missouri Members of the Class ("Missouri Class")**

277. Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 repeats each and every allegation contained in paragraphs above and incorporates such allegations by reference herein.

278. Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 brings this claim on behalf of itself and the members of the Missouri Class against Walgreens.

279. At all relevant times, Plaintiff IBEW Local 38, the Missouri Class, and Walgreens were "persons" within the meaning of Mo. Rev. Stat. §407.010(5) (West).

280. At all relevant and material times as described herein, Walgreens engaged in "trade" or "commerce" in the State of Missouri within the meaning of Mo. Rev. Stat. §407.010(7) (West).

281. An "unfair practice" under Missouri law includes several types. Walgreens has engaged in an "unfair practice" with the pricing of the PSC Generics for several independent reasons. First, according to Missouri law, an "(1) An unfair practice is any practice which—(A) Either— 1. Offends any public policy as it has been established by the Constitution, statutes or common law of this state, or by the Federal Trade Commission, or its interpretive decisions; or 2.

Is unethical, oppressive or unscrupulous; and (B) Presents a risk of, or causes, substantial injury to consumers.” Mo. Code Regs. Ann. tit. 15, §60-8.020 (2016). Second, according to Missouri law, it is an “unfair practice” to engage in any unconscionable act or practice. Mo. Code Regs. Ann. tit. 15, §60-8.080 (2016). Third, according to Missouri law, it is an “unfair practice” to engage in any practice that violates state or federal law intended to protect the public and presents a risk of, or causes substantial injury to consumers. Mo. Code Regs. Ann. tit. 15, §60-8.090 (2016).

282. Walgreens’ unfair and deceptive acts and practices regarding the true U&C price of PSC Generics were directed at and impacted the market generally and/or otherwise implicate consumer protection concerns where Walgreens’ unfair and deceptive acts and practices have impacted at least thousands of consumers in Missouri and remedying Walgreens’ wrongdoing through the relief requested herein would serve the interests of consumers. Walgreens’ unfair and deceptive trade practices significantly impact the public as actual or potential consumers of Walgreens’ goods and services in that the actions and transactions alleged herein substantially affected the people of Missouri, with thousands of TPPs and consumers in Missouri paying substantially higher price for PSC Generics at Missouri Walgreens pharmacies.

283. Walgreens’ conduct constitutes an unfair practice in that Walgreens sells PSC Generics for a price that is unconscionable and unethical, oppressive, and unscrupulous. Walgreens’ unjustified, inflated pricing of PSC Generics is oppressive because it overcharges consumers and third-party payors. The pricing of PSC Generics is unconscionable and unethical and unscrupulous because it is the result of Walgreens’ desire to achieve maximum financial gain for medically necessary drugs prescribed to consumers whose medical conditions do not allow them to decline to purchase PSC Generics.



284. Walgreens' conduct further constitutes an unfair practice in that Walgreens has engaged, and continues to engage, in conduct that violates the legislatively declared public policies of: (1) Missouri Revised Statute §376.446, permitting individuals to learn the true amount of their cost-sharing contributions under their plans; and (2) the FTCA, 15 U.S.C. §§45(a)(1), against unfair or deceptive practices.

285. Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the Missouri Class have suffered substantial injury because of Walgreens' employment of unfair and unconscionable acts or practices in connection with the sale of PSC Generics to Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the Missouri Class.

286. Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the Missouri Class have suffered losses because of Walgreens' employment of deception, deceptive or unfair act or practice, fraud, false pretense, false promise, misrepresentation, or concealment, suppression, or omission of material fact with intent that others rely on such concealment, suppression, or omission, in connection with the sale or advertisement of any merchandise by, among other things:

- a. reporting to and charging Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the Missouri Class fraudulently inflated U&C prices for the PSC Generics;
- b. communicating to and charging beneficiaries of Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the Missouri Class (or its beneficiaries) fraudulently inflated copayment, coinsurance, or deductible amounts that exceeded Walgreens' true U&C price;
- c. concealing from Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the Missouri Class the true U&C prices of the PSC Generics, and the proper reimbursement amount Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the Missouri Class should have paid; and
- d. wrongfully obtaining monies from Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the Missouri Class as a result of its deception.

287. Walgreens willfully and knowingly engaged in the deceptive, fraudulent, false, and unfair acts and practices described above and knew or should have known that those acts and practices were unconscionable, fraudulent, false and unfair, and thus in violation of Missouri's Merchandising Practices Act, Mo. Rev. Stat. §407.010 (West), *et seq.*

288. The facts that Walgreens misrepresented and concealed were material to the decisions of Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the members of the Missouri Class about whether to pay for Walgreens' PSC Generics, in that they would not have proceeded with the transaction but for Walgreens' deceptive, fraudulent, false, and unfair acts and practices.

289. Walgreens intended for Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the members of the Missouri Class to pay for PSC Generics in reliance upon Walgreens' deceptive, fraudulent, false, and unfair acts and practices.

290. As a direct and proximate result of Walgreens' deceptive, fraudulent, false, and unfair acts and practices, Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the members of the Missouri Class were deceived into paying artificially inflated prices for PSC Generics and have been damaged thereby.

291. Walgreens is therefore liable to Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the members of the Missouri Class for the damages they sustained, plus statutory damages, penalties, injunctive relief, costs, and reasonable attorneys' fees to the extent provided by law.

#### **EIGHTEENTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

##### **Violation of the Nevada Deceptive Trade Practices Act Asserted by Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 on behalf of Nevada Members of the Class ("Nevada Class")**

292. Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 repeats each and every allegation contained in paragraphs above and incorporates such allegations by reference herein.

293. Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 brings this claim on behalf of itself and the members of the Nevada Class against Walgreens.

294. At all relevant times, Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and Walgreens were persons within the meaning of Nev. Rev. Stat. §41.600.

295. At all relevant times, Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the Nevada Class were “victim[s] of consumer fraud” within the meaning of Nev. Rev. Stat. §41-600.

296. Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the Nevada Class have suffered losses because of Walgreens’ employment of deceptive trade practices in the course of its business or occupation, as defined in Nev. Rev. Stat. §598.0915(13), in “[m]ak[ing] false or misleading statements of fact concerning the price of goods or services for sale,” and in Nev. Rev. Stat. §598.0915(15), in “[k]nowingly mak[ing] any other false representation in a transaction,” in connection with the sale of PSC Generics to Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the Nevada Class by, among other things:

- a. reporting to and charging Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the Nevada Class fraudulently inflated U&C prices for the PSC Generics;
- b. communicating to and charging beneficiaries of Plaintiff IBEW Local 38, consumers, and the Nevada Class (or its beneficiaries) fraudulently inflated copayment, coinsurance, or deductible amounts that exceeded Walgreens’ true U&C price;
- c. concealing from Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the Nevada Class the true U&C prices of the PSC Generics, and the proper reimbursement amount Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the Nevada Class should have paid; and
- d. wrongfully obtaining monies from Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the Nevada Class as a result of its deception.

297. Walgreens willfully and knowingly engaged in the deceptive trade practices described above and knew or should have known that those practices were deceptive in violation of Nevada's Deceptive Trade Practices Act, Nev. Rev. Stat. §§41.600, 598.0915.

298. The facts that Walgreens misrepresented and concealed were material to the decisions of Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the members of the Nevada Class about whether to pay for Walgreens' PSC Generics, in that they would not have proceeded with the transaction but for Walgreens' deceptive, fraudulent, false, and unfair acts and practices.

299. Walgreens intended for Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the members of the Nevada Class to pay for PSC Generics in reliance upon Walgreens' deceptive, fraudulent, false, and unfair acts and practices.

300. As a direct and proximate result of Walgreens' deceptive, fraudulent, false, and unfair acts and practices, Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the members of the Nevada Class were deceived into paying artificially inflated prices for PSC Generics and have been damaged thereby.

301. Walgreens is therefore liable to Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the members of the Nevada Class for the damages they sustained, plus statutory damages, penalties, injunctive relief, costs, and reasonable attorneys' fees to the extent provided by law.

**NINETEENTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

**Violation of the North Carolina Unfair and Deceptive Trade Practices Act**  
**Asserted by Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 on behalf of North Carolina Members of the Class**  
**(“North Carolina Class”)**

302. Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 repeats each and every allegation contained in paragraphs above and incorporates such allegations by reference herein.

303. Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 brings this claim on behalf of itself and the members of the North Carolina Class against Walgreens.

304. At all relevant times, Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the North Carolina Class are businesses injured by reason of Walgreens’ unfair and deceptive acts and practices within the meaning of N.C. Gen. Stat. §75-16.

305. At all relevant and material times as described herein, Walgreens conducted commerce within the meaning of N.C. Gen. Stat. §75-1.1, and Walgreens unfair or deceptive acts or practices occur in and affect commerce.

306. Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the North Carolina Class have suffered losses because of Walgreens’ employment of unfair or deceptive acts or practices in or affecting commerce, by, among other things:

- a. reporting to and charging Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the North Carolina Class fraudulently inflated U&C prices for the PSC Generics;
- b. communicating to and charging beneficiaries of Plaintiff IBEW Local 38, consumers, and the North Carolina Class (or its beneficiaries) fraudulently inflated copayment, coinsurance, or deductible amounts that exceeded Walgreens’ true U&C price;

- c. concealing from Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the North Carolina Class the true U&C prices of the PSC Generics, and the proper reimbursement amount Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the North Carolina Class should have paid; and
- d. wrongfully obtaining monies from Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the North Carolina Class as a result of its deception.

307. Walgreens willfully and knowingly engaged in the deceptive trade practices described above and knew or should have known that those practices were deceptive in violation of North Carolina's Unfair and Deceptive Trade Practices Act, N.C. Gen. Stat. §75-1.1.

308. The facts that Walgreens misrepresented and concealed were material to the decisions of Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the members of the North Carolina Class about whether to pay for Walgreens' PSC Generics, in that they would not have proceeded with the transaction but for Walgreens' deceptive, fraudulent, false, and unfair acts and practices.

309. Walgreens intended for Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the members of the North Carolina Class to pay for PSC Generics in reliance upon Walgreens' deceptive, fraudulent, false, and unfair acts and practices.

310. As a direct and proximate result of Walgreens' deceptive, fraudulent, false, and unfair acts and practices, Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the members of the North Carolina Class were deceived into paying artificially inflated prices for PSC Generics and have been damaged thereby.

311. Walgreens is therefore liable to Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the members of the North Carolina Class for the damages they sustained, plus statutory damages, penalties, injunctive relief, costs, and reasonable attorneys' fees to the extent provided by law.

**TWENTIETH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

**Violation of the Ohio Deceptive Trade Practices Act**  
**Asserted by Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 on behalf of the Ohio Class**

312. Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 repeats each and every allegation contained in paragraphs above and incorporates such allegations by reference herein.

313. Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 brings this claim on behalf of itself and the members of the Ohio Class against Walgreens.

314. At all relevant times, Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the Ohio Class are “persons” within the meaning of Ohio Rev. Code Ann. §4165.01(D).

315. At all relevant and material times as described herein, Walgreens was engaged in “the course of [its] business” within the meaning of Ohio Rev. Code Ann. §4165.02(A) with respect to the acts alleged herein.

316. Ohio Rev. Code Ann. §4165.02(A) provides that a “person engages in a deceptive trade practice when, in the course of the person’s business, vocation, or occupation, the person does any of the following: . . . (12) Makes false statements of fact concerning the reasons for, existence of, or amounts of price reductions[.]”

317. Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the Ohio Class have suffered losses because of Walgreens’ employment of unfair or deceptive acts or practices in the course of its business in omitting the existence of a price reduction in the sale of PSC Generics, by, among other things:

- a. reporting to and charging Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the Ohio Class fraudulently inflated U&C prices for the PSC Generics;
- b. communicating to and charging beneficiaries of Plaintiff IBEW Local 38, consumers, and the Ohio Class (or its beneficiaries) fraudulently inflated

copayment, coinsurance, or deductible amounts that exceeded Walgreens' true U&C price;

- c. concealing from Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the Ohio Class the true U&C prices of the PSC Generics, and the proper reimbursement amount Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the Ohio Class should have paid; and
- d. wrongfully obtaining monies from Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the Ohio Class as a result of its deception.

318. Walgreens willfully and knowingly engaged in the deceptive trade practices described above and knew or should have known that those practices were deceptive in violation of Ohio Deceptive Trade Practices Act, Ohio Rev. Code Ann. §4165.02(A).

319. The facts that Walgreens misrepresented and concealed were material to the decisions of Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the members of the Ohio Class about whether to pay for Walgreens' PSC Generics, in that they would not have proceeded with the transaction but for Walgreens' deceptive, fraudulent, false, and unfair acts and practices.

320. Walgreens intended for Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the members of the Ohio Class to pay for PSC Generics in reliance upon Walgreens' deceptive, fraudulent, false, and unfair acts and practices.

321. As a direct and proximate result of Walgreens' deceptive, fraudulent, false, and unfair acts and practices, Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the members of the Ohio Class were deceived into paying artificially inflated prices for PSC Generics and have been damaged thereby.



322. Walgreens is therefore liable to Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the members of the Ohio Class for the damages they sustained, plus statutory damages, penalties, injunctive relief, costs, and reasonable attorneys' fees to the extent provided by law.

**TWENTY-FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

**Violation of the Wisconsin Deceptive Trade Practices Act**  
**Asserted by Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 on behalf of Wisconsin Members of the Class**  
**("Wisconsin Class")**

323. Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 repeats each and every allegation contained in paragraphs above and incorporates such allegations by reference herein.

324. Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 brings this claim on behalf of itself and the members of the Wisconsin Class against Walgreens.

325. At all relevant times, Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the Wisconsin Class are members of the public, with respect to purchases of PSC Generics in Wisconsin by members of the Class, in that the actions and transactions alleged herein substantially affected the people of Wisconsin, with thousands of TPPs and consumers in Wisconsin paying substantially higher price for PSC Generics at Wisconsin Walgreens pharmacies.

326. Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the Wisconsin Class have suffered pecuniary losses because of Walgreens' employment of untrue, misleading, or deceptive acts or practices with the intent to induce the public in making untrue, misleading, or deceptive statements or representations, by, among other things:

- a. reporting to and charging Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the Wisconsin Class fraudulently inflated U&C prices for the PSC Generics;
- b. communicating to and charging beneficiaries of Plaintiff IBEW Local 38, consumers, and the Wisconsin Class (or its beneficiaries) fraudulently inflated

copayment, coinsurance, or deductible amounts that exceeded Walgreens' true U&C price;

- c. concealing from Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the Wisconsin Class the true U&C prices of the PSC Generics, and the proper reimbursement amount Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the Wisconsin Class should have paid; and
- d. wrongfully obtaining monies from Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the Wisconsin Class as a result of its deception.

327. Walgreens willfully and knowingly engaged in the untrue, misleading, and deceptive trade practices described above and knew or should have known that those practices were untrue, misleading, and deceptive in violation of Wisconsin Deceptive Trade Practices Act, Wis. Stat. §100.18(1).

328. The facts that Walgreens misrepresented and concealed were material to the decisions of Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the members of the Wisconsin Class about whether to pay for Walgreens' PSC Generics, in that they would not have proceeded with the transaction but for Walgreens' untrue, misleading, and deceptive acts and practices.

329. Walgreens intended for Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the members of the Wisconsin Class to pay for PSC Generics in reliance upon Walgreens' untrue, misleading, deceptive acts and practices.

330. As a direct and proximate result of Walgreens' untrue, misleading, and deceptive acts and practices, Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the members of the Wisconsin Class were deceived into paying artificially inflated prices for PSC Generics and have been damaged thereby.

331. Walgreens is therefore liable to Plaintiff IBEW Local 38 and the members of the Wisconsin Class for the damages they sustained, plus statutory damages, penalties, costs, and reasonable attorneys' fees to the extent provided by law.

**TWENTY-SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

**Declaratory and Injunctive Relief**  
**Asserted by Plaintiffs**

332. Plaintiffs reallege each and every allegation contained above as if fully set forth herein.

333. Under the Declaratory Judgment Act, 28 U.S.C. §2201, *et seq.*, this Court is authorized to enter a judgment declaring the rights and legal relations of the parties and grant further necessary relief based upon such a judgment. Furthermore, the Court has broad authority to restrain acts, such as here, which are tortious and which violate the terms of the state statutes described in this complaint.

334. During the Class Period, Walgreens' deceptive inflated U&C pricing scheme has been uniformly implemented as part of a concerted, years-long, pervasive campaign to mislead consumers and third-party payors that is ongoing and continues to this day. Therefore, Plaintiffs face a substantial and imminent risk of future harm and will be injured in the future.

335. Pursuant to its authority under the Declaratory Judgment Act, this Court should enter a judgment declaring that Walgreens conduct continues to violate the statutes and laws referenced herein.

336. The Court also should issue corresponding injunctive relief enjoining Walgreens from conducting business through the unlawful, unfair, misleading, or deceptive business acts or practices, and other violations of law described in this Complaint; and requiring Defendants to

implement whatever measures are necessary to remedy the unfair, misleading, or deceptive business acts or practices, and other violations of law described in this Complaint.

337. Legal remedies are inadequate to address the substantial likelihood of future harm Plaintiffs will sustain in making purchases of PSC Generics. While monetary damages will compensate Plaintiffs for Walgreens' past misconduct, monetary damages will not prevent future misconduct, which Plaintiffs have alleged is likely to occur.

338. The hardship to Plaintiffs if an injunction is not issued exceeds the hardship to Walgreens if an injunction is issued. Plaintiffs and members of the Class will likely incur damages. On the other hand, the cost to Walgreens of complying with an injunction is relatively minimal, especially given its pre-existing obligation to do so.

339. Issuance of the requested injunction will not disserve the public interest. To the contrary, such an injunction would benefit the public by controlling skyrocketing prescription drug costs for hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of consumers and the third-party payors that pay for prescription benefit coverage for those individuals.

#### **NOTICE TO STATE ATTORNEYS GENERAL**

340. Pursuant to applicable statutory provisions, a copy of this Complaint has been mailed to the Attorneys General of Illinois, Louisiana, and Missouri with the filing of this Complaint. *See* 815 Ill. Comp. Stat. Ann. 505/10a(d); La. Rev. Stat. §51:1409(b); Mo. Rev. Stat. §407.025(7) (West).

#### **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

**WHEREFORE**, Plaintiffs on behalf of themselves and the members of the Class seek judgment in an amount to be determined at trial, as follows:

(a) That all members of the Class are owed at least the difference between the amount they paid and the U&C offered to the general public for all PSC Generics purchased during the applicable liability period of the PSC program;

(b) That the Court certify this action as a class action, proper and maintainable pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, and declare that Plaintiffs are proper Class representatives;

(c) That the Court grant permanent injunctive relief to prohibit Walgreens from continuing to engage in the unlawful acts, omissions, and practices described herein;

(d) That the Court award compensatory, consequential, and general damages in an amount to be determined at trial;

(e) That the Court order disgorgement and restitution of all earnings, profits, compensation, and benefits received by Walgreens as a result of its unlawful acts, omissions, and practices;

(f) That the Court award statutory treble damages, and punitive or exemplary damages, to the extent permitted by law;

(g) That the unlawful acts alleged in this Complaint be adjudged and decreed to be a violation of the unfair and deceptive business acts and practices in violation of the consumer protection statutes alleged herein;

(h) That the Court enter a declaratory judgment in favor of Plaintiffs, as described above;

(i) That the Court award to Plaintiffs the cost and disbursements of the action, along with reasonable attorneys' fees;

- (j) That the Court award pre- and post-judgment interest at the maximum legal rate;  
and  
(k) That the Court grant all such other relief as it deems just and proper.

**JURY DEMAND**

Plaintiffs and the members of the Class hereby demand a jury trial on all claims so triable.

Dated: March 23, 2017

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Susan M. Coler  
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Melissa Wolchansky  
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